

## APPENDIX A EPA STORM WATER PHASE II FINAL RULE FACT SHEET SERIES



### An Overview

#### Storm Water Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series

#### Overview

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#### Why Is the Phase II Storm Water Program Necessary?

Since the passage of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the quality of our Nation's waters has improved dramatically. Despite this progress, however, degraded waterbodies still exist. According to the 1996 National Water Quality Inventory (Inventory), a biennial summary of State surveys of water quality, approximately 40 percent of surveyed U.S. waterbodies are still impaired by pollution and do not meet water quality standards. A leading source of this impairment is polluted runoff. In fact, according to the Inventory, 13 percent of impaired rivers, 21 percent of impaired lake acres and 45 percent of impaired estuaries are affected by urban/suburban storm water runoff and 6 percent of impaired rivers, 11 percent of impaired lake acres and 11 percent of impaired estuaries are affected by construction site discharges.

Phase I of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) storm water program was promulgated in 1990 under the CWA. Phase I relies on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage to address storm water runoff from: (1) "medium" and "large" municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) generally serving populations of 100,000 or greater, (2) construction activity disturbing 5 acres of land or greater, and (3) ten categories of industrial activity.

The Storm Water Phase II Final Rule is the next step in EPA's effort to preserve, protect, and improve the Nation's water resources from polluted storm water runoff. The Phase II program expands the Phase I program by requiring additional operators of MS4s in urbanized areas and operators of small construction sites, through the use of NPDES permits, to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water runoff. See Fact Sheets 2.0 and 3.0 for overviews of the Phase II programs for MS4s and construction activity.

Phase II is intended to further reduce adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat by instituting the use of controls on the unregulated sources of storm water discharges that have the greatest likelihood of causing continued environmental degradation. The environmental problems associated with discharges from MS4s in urbanized areas and discharges resulting from construction activity are outlined below.

#### MS4s in Urbanized Areas

Storm water discharges from MS4s in urbanized areas are a concern because of the high concentration of pollutants found in these discharges. Concentrated development in urbanized areas substantially increases impervious surfaces, such as city streets, driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks, on which pollutants from concentrated human activities settle and remain until a storm event washes them into nearby storm drains. Common pollutants include pesticides, fertilizers, oils, salt, litter and other debris, and sediment. Another concern is the possible illicit connections of sanitary sewers, which can result in fecal coliform bacteria entering the storm sewer system. Storm water runoff picks up and transports these and other harmful pollutants then discharges them – untreated – to waterways via storm sewer systems. When left uncontrolled, these discharges can result in fish kills, the destruction of spawning and wildlife habitats, a loss in aesthetic value, and contamination of drinking water supplies and recreational waterways that can threaten public health.

#### Construction Activity

Uncontrolled runoff from construction sites is a water quality concern because of the devastating effects that sedimentation can have on local waterbodies, particularly small streams. Numerous studies have shown that the amount of sediment transported by storm water runoff from construction sites with no controls is significantly greater than from sites with controls. In addition to sediment, construction activities yield pollutants such as pesticides, petroleum products, construction chemicals, solvents, asphalts, and acids that can contaminate storm water runoff. During storms, construction sites may be the source of sediment-laden runoff, which can overwhelm a small stream channel's capacity, resulting in streambed scour, streambank erosion, and destruction of nearstream vegetative cover. Where left uncontrolled, sedimentladen runoff has been shown to result in the loss of in-stream habitats for fish and other aquatic species, an increased difficulty in filtering drinking water, the loss of drinking water reservoir storage capacity, and negative impacts on the navigational capacity of waterways.

#### Are Municipally Operated Sources Exempted by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 Affected by the Final Rule?

Provisions within ISTEA temporarily delayed the deadline for Phase I industrial activities (with the exception of power plants, airports, and uncontrolled sanitary landfills) operated by municipalities with populations of less than 100,000 people to obtain an NPDES storm water discharge permit. Congress delayed the permitting deadline for these facilities to allow small municipalities additional time to comply with NPDES requirements. The Phase II Final Rule ended this temporary exemption from permitting and set a deadline of no later than March 10, 2003 for all ISTEA-exempted municipally operated industrial activities to obtain permit coverage.

#### How Was the Phase II Final Rule Developed?

EPA developed the Phase II Final Rule during extensive consultations with a cross-section of interested stakeholders brought together on a subcommittee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and with representatives of small entities participating in an advisory process mandated under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. In addition, EPA considered comments submitted by over 500 individuals and organizations during a 90-day public comment period on the proposed rule.

## Why Does Part of the Phase II Final Rule Use a Ouestion and Answer Format?

The provisions pertaining to operators of small MS4s are written in a "readable regulation" form that uses the "plain language" method. Questions and answers are used to create more reader-friendly and understandable regulations. The plain language method uses "must" instead of "shall" to indicate a requirement and words like "should," "could," or "encourage" to indicate a recommendation or guidance.

#### Who Is Covered by the Phase II Final Rule?

T he final rule "automatically" covers two classes of storm water dischargers on a nationwide basis:

- (1) Operators of small MS4s located in "urbanized areas" as delineated by the Bureau of the Census. A "small" MS4 is any MS4 not already covered by Phase I of the NPDES storm water program. See Fact Sheets 2.1 and 2.2 for more information on small MS4 coverage.
- (2) Operators of small construction activities that disturb equal to or greater than 1 (one) and less than 5 (five) acres of land. See Fact Sheet 3.0 for more information on small construction activity coverage.

#### Waivers

Permitting authorities may waive "automatically designated" Phase II dischargers if the dischargers meet the necessary criteria. See Fact Sheets 2.1 (small MS4 waivers overview), 3.0 (construction waivers overview) and 3.1 (construction rainfall erosivity waiver) for details.

#### Phased-in Permit Coverage

Permitting authorities may phase-in permit coverage for small MS4s serving jurisdictions with a population under 10,000 on a schedule consistent with a State watershed permitting approach.

#### Additional Designations by the Permitting Authority

Small MS4s located outside of urbanized areas, construction activity disturbing less than 1 acre, and any other storm water discharges can be designated for coverage if the NPDES permitting authority or EPA determines that storm water controls are necessary. See Fact Sheet 2.1 for more information on the designation of small MS4s located outside of urbanized areas.

#### What Does the Phase II Final Rule Require?

Operators of Phase II-designated small MS4s and small construction activity are required to apply for NPDES permit coverage, most likely under a general rather than individual permit, and to implement storm water discharge management controls (known as "best management practices" (BMPs)). Specific requirements for each type of discharge are listed below.

#### Small MS4s

- A regulated small MS4 operator must develop, implement, and enforce a storm water management program designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from their MS4 to the "maximum extent practicable," to protect water quality, and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the CWA. The rule assumes the use of narrative, rather than numeric, effluent limitations requiring implementation of BMPs.
- The small MS4 storm water management program must include the following six minimum control measures: public education and outreach; public participation/involvement; illicit discharge detection and elimination; construction site runoff control; post-construction runoff control; and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. See Fact Sheets 2.3 through 2.8 for more information on each measure, including BMPs and measurable goals.
- ☐ A regulated small MS4 operator must identify its selection of BMPs and measurable goals for each minimum measure in the permit application. The evaluation and assessment of those chosen BMPs and measurable goals must be included in periodic reports to the NPDES permitting authority. See Fact Sheet 2.9 for more information on permitting and reporting.

#### **Small Construction Activity**

- The specific requirements for storm water controls on small construction activity will be defined by the NPDES permitting authority on a State-by-State basis.
- EPA expects that the NPDES permitting authorities will use their existing Phase I general permits for large construction activity as a guide for their Phase II permits for small construction activity. If

this occurs, a storm water pollution prevention plan will likely be required for small construction activity. See Fact Sheet 3.0 for more information on potential program requirements and appropriate BMPs for small construction activity.

#### What Is the Phase II Program Approach?

The Phase II program, based on the use of federally enforceable NPDES permits:

- Encourages the use of general permits;
- Provides flexibility for regulated operators to determine the most appropriate storm water controls;
- Allows for the recognition and inclusion of existing NPDES and non-NPDES storm water programs in Phase II permits;
- Includes public education and participation efforts as primary elements of the small MS4 program;
- Attempts to facilitate and promote watershed planning and to implement the storm water program on a watershed basis; and
- Works toward a unified and comprehensive NPDES storm water program with Phase I of the program.

## How Does the Phase II Final Rule Address the Phase I Industrial "No Exposure" Provision?

In addition to establishing a deadline for ISTEA facilities and designating two new classes of dischargers, the Phase II Final Rule revises the "no exposure" provision originally included in the 1990 regulations for Phase I of the NPDES storm water program. The provision was remanded to EPA for further rulemaking and, subsequently, included in its revised form in the Phase II rule.

Under the Phase II Final Rule, a conditional no exposure exclusion is available to operators of all categories of Phase I regulated industrial activity (except category (x) construction activity) who can certify that all industrial materials and activities are protected by a storm resistant shelter to prevent exposure to rain, snow, snowmelt, and/or runoff. To obtain the no exposure exclusion, written certification must be submitted to the NPDES permitting authority. The final rule includes a No Exposure Certification form for use only by operators of industrial activity in areas where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. See Fact Sheet 4.0 for more information on the conditional no exposure exclusion for industrial activity.

### What Is the Phase II Program Implementation "Tool Box?"

PA is committed to providing tools to facilitate Eimplementation of the final Phase II storm water program in an effective and cost-efficient manner. The "tool box" will include the following components:

- Fact Sheets;
- Guidance Documents;
- Menu of BMPs;
- Information Clearinghouse/Web Site;
- Training and Outreach Efforts;
- Technical Research:
- Support for Demonstration Projects; and
- Compliance Monitoring/Assistance Tools.

A preliminary working toolbox is available on EPA's web site at www.epa.gov/owm/sw/toolbox. Three years after publication of the final rule, when the general permits are issued, a fully operational tool box is scheduled to be available.

#### What Is the Schedule for the Phase II Rule?

- The Phase II Final Rule was published in the Federal Register on December 8, 1999 (64 FR 68722).
- The Conditional No Exposure Exclusion option is available February 7, 2000, in States where EPA is the permitting authority.
- The NPDES permitting authority will issue general permits for Phase II-designated small MS4s and small construction activity by December 9, 2002.
- Operators of Phase II "automatically" designated regulated small MS4s and small construction activity must obtain permit coverage within 90 days of permit issuance.
- ☐ The NPDES permitting authority may phase-in coverage for small MS4s serving jurisdictions with a population under 10,000 on a schedule consistent with a State watershed permitting approach.
- Operators of regulated small MS4s must fully implement their storm water management programs by the end of the first permit term, typically a 5-year period.

#### For Additional Information

#### **Contacts**

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Your NPDES Permitting Authority. (A list of names and telephone numbers for each U.S. EPA Region is included in Fact Sheet 2.9. A list that includes State storm water contacts can be obtained by contacting the U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management.)

#### Reference Documents

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series

• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722)

Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786



### Small MS4Storm Water Program Overview

Polluted storm water runoff is often transported to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. EPA's Storm Water Phase II Rule establishes an MS4 storm water management program that is intended to improve the Nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that storm water picks up and carries into storm sewer systems during storm events. Common pollutants include oil and grease from roadways, pesticides from lawns, sediment from construction sites, and carelessly discarded trash, such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles. When deposited into nearby waterways through MS4 discharges, these pollutants can impair the waterways, thereby discouraging recreational use of the resource, contaminating drinking water supplies, and interfering with the habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife.

In 1990, EPA promulgated rules establishing Phase I of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water program. The Phase I program for MS4s requires operators of "medium" and "large" MS4s, that is, those that generally serve populations of 100,000 or greater, to implement a storm water management program as a means to control polluted discharges from these MS4s. The Storm Water Phase II Rule extends coverage of the NPDES storm water program to certain "small" MS4s but takes a slightly different approach to how the storm water management program is developed and implemented.

#### What Is a Phase II Small MS4?

Asmall MS4 is any MS4 not already covered by the Phase I program as a medium or large MS4. The Phase II Rule automatically covers on a nationwide basis all small MS4s located in "urbanized areas" (UAs) as defined by the Bureau of the Census (unless waived by the NPDES permitting authority), and on a case-by-case basis those small MS4s located outside of UAs that the NPDES permitting authority designates. For more information on Phase II small MS4 coverage, see Fact Sheets 2.1 and 2.2.

#### What Are the Phase II Small MS4 Program Requirements?

perators of regulated small MS4s are required to design their programs to:

- Reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable" (MEP);
- Protect water quality; and
   Satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Implementation of the MEP standard will typically require the development and implementation of BMPs and the achievement of measurable goals to satisfy each of the six minimum control measures.

The Phase II Rule defines a small MS4 storm water management program as a program comprising six elements that, when implemented in concert, are expected to result in significant reductions of pollutants discharged into receiving waterbodies.

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The six MS4 program elements, termed "minimum control measures," are outlined below. For more information on each of these required control measures, see Fact Sheets 2.3 - 2.8.

#### 1 Public Education and Outreach

Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted storm water runoff discharges can have on water quality.

#### 2 Public Participation/Involvement

Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation, including effectively publicizing public hearings and/or encouraging citizen representatives on a storm water management panel.

#### 11 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system (includes developing a system map and informing the community about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste).

#### 4 Construction Site Runoff Control

Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb 1 or more acres of land (controls could include silt fences and temporary storm water detention ponds).

#### **6** Post-Construction Runoff Control

Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands) or the use of structural BMPs such as grassed swales or porous pavement.

#### **6** Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques (e.g., regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt, or frequent catch-basin cleaning).

## What Information Must the NPDES Permit Application Include?

The Phase II program for MS4s is designed to accommodate a general permit approach using a Notice of Intent (NOI) as the permit application. The operator of a regulated small MS4 must include in its permit application,

or NOI, its chosen BMPs and measurable goals for each minimum control measure. To help permittees identify the most appropriate BMPs for their programs, EPA will issue a "menu," of BMPs to serve as guidance. NPDES permitting authorities can modify the EPA menu or develop their own list. For more information on application requirements, see Fact Sheet 2.9.

#### What Are the Implementation Options?

The rule identifies a number of implementation options for regulated small MS4 operators. These include sharing responsibility for program development with a nearby regulated small MS4, taking advantage of existing local or State programs, or participating in the implementation of an existing Phase I MS4's storm water program as a co-permittee. These options are intended to promote a regional approach to storm water management coordinated on a watershed basis.

## What Kind of Program Evaluation/Assessment Is Required?

Permittees need to evaluate the effectiveness of their chosen BMPs to determine whether the BMPs are reducing the discharge of pollutants from their systems to the "maximum extent practicable" and to determine if the BMP mix is satisfying the water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act. Permittees also are required to assess their progress in achieving their program's measurable goals. While monitoring is not required under the rule, the NPDES permitting authority has the discretion to require monitoring if deemed necessary. If there is an indication of a need for improved controls, permittees can revise their mix of BMPs to create a more effective program. For more information on program evaluation/assessment, see Fact Sheet 2.9.

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

#### Reference Documents

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Storm Water Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722)

- Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2
- Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786



## Who's Covered? Designation and Waivers of Regulated Small MS4s

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#### Who Is Affected by the Phase II Small MS4 Program?

The Storm Water Phase II Final Rule applies to operators of regulated small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), which are designated based on the criteria discussed in this fact sheet. In this fact sheet, the definition of an MS4 and the distinction between small, medium, and large MS4s is reviewed. Conditions under which a small MS4 may be designated as a regulated small MS4, as well as the conditions for a waiver from the Phase II program requirements, are outlined. This fact sheet also attempts to clarify possible implementation issues related to determining one's status as an operator of a regulated small MS4.

#### What Is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)?

What constitutes an MS4 is often misinterpreted and misunderstood. The term MS4 does not solely refer to municipally-owned storm sewer systems, but rather is a term of art with a much broader application that can include, in addition to local jurisdictions, State departments of transportation, universities, local sewer districts, hospitals, military bases, and prisons. An MS4 also is not always just a system of underground pipes – it can include roads with drainage systems, gutters, and ditches. The regulatory definition of an MS4 is provided below.

According to 40 CFR 122.26(b)(8), "municipal separate storm sewer means a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains):

- (i) Owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law)...including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the Clean Water Act that discharges into waters of the United States.
- (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water;
- (iii) Which is not a combined sewer; and
- (iv) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2."

#### What Is a Small, Medium, or Large MS4?

- EPA's NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) storm water permitting program labels MS4s as either "small," "medium," or "large" for the purposes of regulation.
- A small MS4 is any MS4 that is not already covered by the Phase I storm water program. Small MS4s include Federally-owned systems, such as military bases.
- The Phase I storm water program covers medium and large MS4s. Phase I MS4s were automatically designated nationwide as medium MS4s if they were located in an incorporated place or county with a population between 100,000 249,999 or as large MS4s if located in an incorporated place or county with a population of 250,000 or greater. Many MS4s in areas below 100,000 in population, however, have been individually brought into the Phase I program by NPDES permitting authorities. Such already regulated MS4s do not have to develop a Phase II program.

## Are All Small MS4s Covered by the Phase II Final Rule?

No. The universe of small MS4s is quite large since it includes every MS4 except for the approximately 900 medium and large MS4s already regulated under the Phase I storm water program. Only a select sub-set of small MS4s, referred to as *regulated* small MS4s, is covered by the Phase II Final Rule, either through automatic nationwide designation or designation on a case-by-case basis by the NPDES permitting authority.

## How Is A Small MS4 Designated as a Regulated Small MS4?

A small MS4 can be designated by the permitting authority as a regulated small MS4 in one of three ways:

#### **1** Automatic Nationwide Designation

The Phase II Final Rule requires nationwide coverage of all operators of small MS4s that are located within the boundaries of a Bureau of the Census-defined "urbanized area" (UA) based on the latest decennial Census. Once a small MS4 is designated into the program based on the UA boundaries, it cannot be waived from the program if in a subsequent UA calculation the small MS4 is no longer within the UA boundaries. An automatically designated small MS4 remains regulated unless, or until, it meets the criteria for a waiver.

#### ☐ Urbanized Areas

An *urbanized area* (UA) is a land area comprising one or more places – central place(s) – and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area – urban fringe – that together have a residential population of at least 50,000 and an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile. It is a calculation used by the Bureau of the Census to determine the geographic boundaries of the most heavily developed and dense urban areas.

Before the time of permit issuance (which must be by December 9, 2002), UA calculations based on the 2000 Census should be published. The regulated universe then will be based on these new calculations. For more information on UAs, see Fact Sheet 2.2.

#### ☐ Preamble of the Phase II Final Rule: Appendix 6

A listing of governmental entities that are located either fully or partially within a UA according to the 1990 Census can be found in Appendix 6 to the Preamble. The list is a general geographic reference intended to help operators of small MS4s determine whether or not they are located in a UA and, consequently, required to comply with the regulation; it is not a list of all Phase II regulated MS4s. For example, the list does not include small MS4 operators such as colleges and universities, Federal prison complexes, and State highway departments located within a UA. See Fact Sheet 2.2 for more information on how to determine potential coverage under the Phase II program. Appendix 6 can be obtained from the EPA Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) or downloaded from the OWM web site.

#### Potential Designation by the NPDES Permitting Authority – Required Evaluation

An operator of small MS4 located outside of a UA may be designated as a regulated small MS4 if the NPDES permitting authority determines that its discharges cause, or have the potential to cause, an adverse impact on water quality. The Phase II Final Rule requires the NPDES permitting authority to develop a set of designation criteria and apply them, at a minimum, to all small MS4s located outside of a UA serving a jurisdiction with a population of at least 10,000 and a population density of at least 1,000 people/square mile.

#### ☐ Designation Criteria

EPA recommends that the NPDES permitting authority use a balanced consideration of the following designation criteria on a watershed or other local basis:

- Discharge to sensitive waters;
- High population density;
- High growth or growth potential;
- Contiguity to a UA;
- Significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the United States; and
- Ineffective protection of water quality concerns by other programs.

### ☐ Preamble of the Phase II Final Rule: Appendix 7

A listing of governmental entities located outside of a UA, that have a population of at least 10,000 and a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile can be found in Appendix 7 to the Preamble of the Phase II Final Rule. Similar to Appendix 6, the list is a geographic reference only – it is not a list of regulated entities. Operators of small MS4s located within a listed area could be examined by their NPDES permitting authority for potential designation into the Phase II program. Furthermore, the NPDES permitting authority reserves the right to designate for regulation any small MS4 that is contributing pollutants to waters of the United States, whether or not its jurisdiction is found in Appendix 7. Appendix 7 can be obtained from the EPA Office of Wastewater Management or downloaded from the OWM web site.

#### ☐ Deadline for Designation

The NPDES permitting authority is required to designate small MS4s meeting the designation criteria by December 9, 2002 or by December 8, 2004 if a watershed plan is in place.

## **3** Potential Designation by the NPDES Permitting Authority – Physically Interconnected

Under the final rule, the NPDES permitting authority is required to designate any small MS4 located outside of a UA that contributes substantially to the pollutant loadings of a *physically interconnected* MS4 regulated by the NPDES storm water program. The final rule does not set a deadline for designation of small MS4s meeting this criterion.

Physically interconnected means that one MS4 is connected to a second MS4 in such a way that it allows for direct discharges into the second system.

## Are Waivers from the Phase II Permit/Program Requirements Possible?

Yes, two waiver options are available to operators of automatically designated small MS4s if discharges do not cause, or have the potential to cause, water quality impairment.

The first applies where:

- (1) the jurisdiction served by the system is less than 1,000 people;
- (2) the system is not contributing substantially to the pollutant loadings of a physically interconnected regulated MS4; and
- (3) if the small MS4 discharges any pollutants identified as a cause of impairment of any water body to which it discharges, storm water controls are not needed based on wasteload allocations that are part of an EPA approved or established "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) that addresses the pollutant(s) of concern.

TMDLs are water quality assessments that determine the source or sources of pollutants of concern for a particular waterbody, consider the maximum amount of pollutants the waterbody can assimilate, and then allocate to each source a set level of pollutants that it is allowed to discharge (i.e., a "wasteload allocation"). Small MS4s that are not given a wasteload allocation would meet the third criterion above.

Pollutants of Concern include biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), sediment or a parameter that addresses sediment (such as total suspended solids, turbidity or siltation), pathogens, oil and grease, and any pollutant that has been identified as a cause of impairment in any water body to which the MS4 discharges.

#### The second applies where:

- (1) the jurisdiction served by the system is less than 10,000 people;
- (2) an evaluation of all waters of the U.S. that receive a discharge from the system shows that storm water controls are not needed based on wasteload allocations that are part of an EPA approved or established TMDL that addresses the pollutant(s) of concern or an equivalent analysis; and
- (3) it is determined that future discharges from the small MS4 do not have the potential to result in exceedances of water quality standards.

The NPDES permitting authority is required to periodically review any waivers granted to MS4 operators to determine whether any information required for granting the waiver has changed. Minimally, such a review needs to be conducted once every five years.

## Are There Allowances for Phasing-in Permit Coverage?

Yes. Small MS4s serving a jurisdiction with a population under 10,000 can be phased-in for permit coverage, following establishment of a State watershed permitting approach. NPDES permitting authorities that choose this option must establish a schedule to phase-in permit coverage annually for approximately 20 percent of all small MS4s that qualify for such phased-in coverage. Where this option is followed, all regulated small MS4s are required to have permit coverage no later than March 8, 2007.

## Can More than One MS4 in the Same Political Jurisdiction Be Automatically Designated?

Yes. Since the final rule provides automatic coverage of all small MS4s within a UA, the result would likely be coverage of several governments and agencies with multiple, perhaps overlapping, jurisdictions. For example, a city that is located within a UA and operates its own small MS4 could be designated alongside the State's department of transportation (DOT) and the county's DOT if the State and county operate roads that are within the borders of the city. All three entities would be responsible for developing a storm water management program for the portion of their respective MS4s within the city limits. In such a case, the permittees are strongly encouraged to work together to form a unified storm water management program.

## Who Is Responsible if the Small MS4 Operator Lacks the Necessary Legal Authority?

Some regulated small MS4s may lack the necessary legal authority to implement one or more of the required minimum control measures that comprise the Phase II storm water management program. For example, a local government that is a small MS4 operator may be in a State that does not have an enabling statute that allows local regulatory control of construction site runoff into the sewer system. Another example is a State DOT that may not have the legal authority to require and enforce controls on illicit discharges into its system. In these situations the small MS4 is encouraged to work with the neighboring regulated small MS4s. As co-permittees, they could form a shared storm water management program in which each permittee is responsible for activities that are within their individual legal authorities and abilities.

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816
 E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

#### Reference Documents

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series

Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722)

• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

· Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786



## **Urbanized Areas: Definition and Description**

As discussed in Fact Sheet 2.1, Who's Covered? Designation and Waivers of Regulated Small MS4s, the Phase II Final Rule covers all small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) located within an "urbanized area" (UA). Based on the 1990 Census, there are 405 UAs in the United States that cover 2 percent of total U.S. land area and contain approximately 63 percent of the Nation's population. These numbers include Puerto Rico—the only U.S. Territory with UAs.

UAs constitute the largest and most dense areas of settlement. UA calculations delineate boundaries around these dense areas of settlement and, in doing so, identify the areas of concentrated development. UA designations are used for several purposes in both the public and private sectors. For example, the Federal Government has used UAs to calculate allocations for transportation funding, and some planning agencies and development firms use UA boundaries to help ascertain current, and predict future, growth areas.

#### What Is an Urbanized Area (UA)?

The Bureau of the Census determines UAs by applying a detailed set of published UA criteria (see 55 FR 42592, October 22, 1990) to the latest decennial census data. Although the full UA definition is complex, the Bureau of the Census' general definition of a UA, based on population and population density, is provided below.

An *urbanized area* is a land area comprising one or more places — central place(s) — and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area — urban fringe — that together have a residential population of at least 50,000 and an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile.

The basic unit for delineating the UA boundary is the census block. Census blocks are based on visible physical boundaries, such as the city block, when possible, or on invisible political boundaries, when not. An urbanized area can comprise places, counties, Federal Indian Reservations, and minor civil divisions (MCDs - towns and townships).

#### How Can Status as a Regulated Small MS4 Be Determined?

The drawing below (see Figure 1) is a simplified UA illustration that demonstrates the concept of UAs in relation to the Phase II Final Rule. The "urbanized area" includes within its boundaries incorporated places, a portion of a Federal Indian reservation, an entire MCD, a portion of another MCD, and portions of two counties. Any and all operators of small MS4s located within the boundaries of the UA are covered under the Phase II Final Rule, regardless of political boundaries. Operators of small MS4s located outside of the UA are subject to potential designation into the Phase II MS4 program by the NPDES permitting authority.

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Operators of small MS4s can determine if they are located within a UA, and therefore covered by the Phase II storm water program, through the following two steps:

#### --- STEP 1 ---

Refer to a listing of incorporated places, MCDs, and counties that are located entirely or partially within a UA. Such a listing, based on the 1990 Census, can be found in Appendix 6 to the Preamble of the Phase II Final Rule; it does not include governmental entities already permitted under Phase I. If a small MS4 is located in a listed incorporated place, MCD, or county, then the operator of the small MS4 should follow step (2) below. (Note: Appendix 6 can be obtained from the EPA Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) or downloaded from the OWM web site.)

#### --- STEP 2 ---

Some operators of small MS4s may find that they are located within an entity listed in Appendix 6 but not know if their systems are within the urbanized portion of the listed entity. In such a case, they should contact one or more of the following institutions for more detailed information on the location of the UA boundary:

☐ The State or NPDES Permitting Authority (may be the State or the U.S. EPA Region)

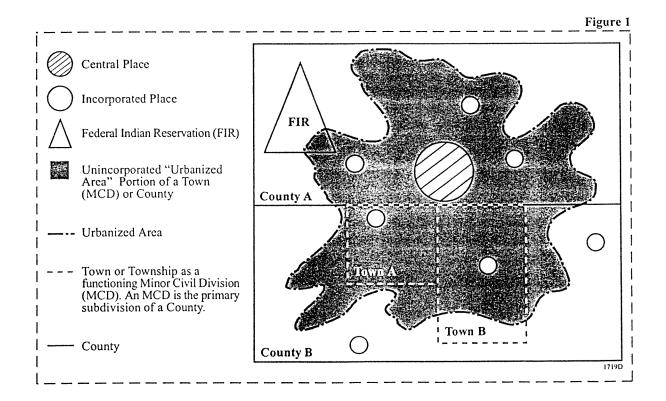
Storm Water Coordinators: The NPDES permitting authority may be the State or the U.S. EPA Region. The Storm Water Coordinators for each U.S. EPA Region are listed in the For Additional Information section in Fact Sheet 2.9. These regional contacts can assist with UA information and provide the names of State storm water contacts. Regional and State contact information can also be obtained from OWM.

State Data Centers: Each State's Data Center receives listings of all entities that are located in UAs, as well as detailed maps and electronic files of UA boundaries. The Bureau of the Census web site includes a list of contact names and phone numbers for the data in each State at www.census.gov/sdc/www.

State Planning/Economic/Transportation Agencies: These agencies typically use UAs to assess current development and forecast future growth trends and, therefore, should have detailed UA information readily available to help determine the UA boundaries in any given area.

#### ☐ County or Regional Planning Commissions/ Boards

As with State agencies, these entities are likely to have detailed UA data and maps to help determine UA boundaries.



#### ☐ The Bureau of the Census

Urbanized Areas Staff: 301 457-1099

Web Site: www.census.gov

The site provides information on purchasing UA maps and electronic files for use with computerized mapping systems. Obtain free UA cartographic boundary files (Arc/Info export format) for Geographical Information System (GIS) use at: www.census.gov:80/geo/www/cob/ua.html.

*UA Maps*: Detailed UA maps are available for purchase with a \$25 minimum order (\$5 per map sheet). Each map sheet measures 36 by 42 inches. For prices and a listing of UAs, visit www.census.gov/mp/www/geo/msgeo12.html. Order from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census (MS 1921), P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943 (Phone: 301 457-4100; Toll-free fax: 1-888-249-7295).

#### U.S. EPA

EPA is modifying a web-based geographic program called *Enviromapper*. This will allow MS4 operators to enter a location and see a detailed map of the UA boundary. Information about *Enviromapper* will be available at www.epa.gov/owm/phase2.

## How Will the Year 2000 Census Affect the Determination of Status as a Regulated Small MS4?

The listing of incorporated places, MCDs, and counties located within UAs in the United States and Puerto Rico, found in Appendix 6, is based on the 1990 Census. New listings for UAs based on the 2000 Census are scheduled to be available by July or August of 2001. Once the official 2000 Census listings are published by the Bureau of the Census, operators of small MS4s located within the revised boundaries of former 1990 UAs, or in any newly defined 2000 UAs, become regulated small MS4s and must develop a storm water management program.

Any additional automatic designations of small MS4s based on subsequent census years is governed by the Bureau of the Census' definition of a UA in effect for that year and the UA boundaries determined as a result of the definition.

Once a small MS4 is designated into the Phase II storm water program based on the UA boundaries, it can not be waived from the program if in a subsequent UA calculation the small MS4 is no longer within the UA boundaries. An automatically designated small MS4 will remain regulated unless, or until, it meets the criteria for a waiver (see Fact Sheet 2.1 for more information on the regulated small MS4 waiver option).

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

#### Reference Documents

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• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786



## Public Education and Outreach Minimum Control Measure

This fact sheet profiles the Public Education and Outreach minimum control measure, one of six measures an operator of a Phase II-regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is required to include in its storm water management program to meet the conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permit. This fact sheet outlines the Phase II Final Rule requirements and offers some general guidance on how to satisfy them. It is important to keep in mind that the regulated small MS4 operator has a great deal of flexibility in choosing exactly how to satisfy the minimum control measure requirements.

#### Why Is Public Education and Outreach Necessary?

An informed and knowledgeable community is crucial to the success of a storm water management program since it helps to ensure the following:

- Greater support for the program as the public gains a greater understanding of the
  reasons why it is necessary and important. Public support is particularly beneficial
  when operators of small MS4s attempt to institute new funding initiatives for the
  program or seek volunteers to help implement the program; and
- Greater compliance with the program as the public becomes aware of the personal responsibilities expected of them and others in the community, including the individual actions they can take to protect or improve the quality of area waters.

#### What Is Required?

To satisfy this minimum control measure, the operator of a regulated small MS4 needs to:

- Implement a public education program to distribute educational materials to the community, or conduct equivalent outreach activities about the impacts of storm water discharges on local waterbodies and the steps that can be taken to reduce storm water pollution; and
- Determine the appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for this minimum control measure. Some program implementation approaches, BMPs (i.e., the program actions/activities), and measurable goals are suggested below.

## What Are Some Guidelines for Developing and Implementing This Measure?

 $\Gamma$  hree main action areas are important for successful implementation of a public education and outreach program:

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#### • Forming Partnerships

Operators of regulated small MS4s are encouraged to enter into partnerships with other governmental entities to fulfill this minimum control measure's requirements. It is generally more cost-effective to use an existing program, or to develop a new regional or state-wide education program, than to have numerous operators developing their own local programs. Operators also are encouraged to seek assistance from nongovernmental organizations (e.g., environmental, civic, and industrial organizations), since many already have educational materials and perform outreach activities.

#### 2 <u>Using Educational Materials and Strategies</u>

Operators of regulated small MS4s may use storm water educational information provided by their State, Tribe, EPA Region, or environmental, public interest, or trade organizations instead of developing their own materials. Operators should strive to make their materials and activities relevant to local situations and issues, and incorporate a variety of strategies to ensure maximum coverage. Some examples include:

- Brochures or fact sheets for general public and specific audiences;
- Recreational guides to educate groups such as golfers, hikers, paddlers, climbers, fishermen, and campers;
- Alternative information sources, such as web sites, bumper stickers, refrigerator magnets, posters for bus and subway stops, and restaurant placemats;
- A library of educational materials for community and school groups;
- Volunteer citizen educators to staff a public education task force;
- Event participation with educational displays at home shows and community festivals;
- Educational programs for school-age children;
- Storm drain stenciling of storm drains with messages such as "Do Not Dump - Drains Directly to Lake;"
- Storm water hotlines for information and for citizen reporting of polluters;
- Economic incentives to citizens and businesses (e.g., rebates to homeowners purchasing mulching lawnmowers or biodegradable lawn products); and
- Tributary signage to increase public awareness of local water resources.

#### **8** Reaching Diverse Audiences

The public education program should use a mix of appropriate local strategies to address the viewpoints and concerns of a variety of audiences and communities, including minority and disadvantaged communities, as well as children. Printing posters and brochures in more than one language or posting

large warning signs (e.g., cautioning against fishing or swimming) near storm sewer outfalls are methods that can be used to reach audiences less likely to read standard materials. Directing materials or outreach programs toward specific groups of commercial, industrial, and institutional entities likely to have significant storm water impacts is also recommended. For example, information could be provided to restaurants on the effects of grease clogging storm drains and to auto garages on the effects of dumping used oil into storm drains.

#### What Are Appropriate Measurable Goals?

Measurable goals, which are required for each minimum control measure, are intended to gauge permit compliance and program effectiveness. The measurable goals, as well as the BMPs, should reflect the needs and characteristics of the operator and the area served by its small MS4. Furthermore, they should be chosen using an integrated approach that fully addresses the requirements and intent of the minimum control measure. An integrated approach for this minimum measure could include the following measurable goals:

Target	Date	Activity

1 year...... Brochures developed (bilingual, if appropriate) and distributed in water utility bills; a storm

water hotline in place; volunteer educators trained.

2 years...... A web site created; school curricula developed; storm drains stenciled.

3 years...... A certain percentage of restaurants no longer dumping grease and other pollutants down storm sewer drains.

4 years...... A certain percentage reduction in litter or animal waste detected in discharges.

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

#### Reference Documents

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Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786



## Public Participation/Involvement Minimum Control Measure

This fact sheet profiles the Public Participation/Involvement minimum control measure, one of six measures the operator of a Phase II regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is required to include in its storm water management program to meet the conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This fact sheet outlines the Phase II Final Rule requirements and offers some general guidance on how to satisfy them. It is important to keep in mind that the small MS4 operator has a great deal of flexibility in determining how to satisfy the minimum control measure requirements.

#### Why Is Public Participation and Involvement Necessary?

PA believes that the public can provide valuable input and assistance to a regulated small MS4's municipal storm water management program and, therefore, suggests that the public be given opportunities to play an active role in both the development and implementation of the program. An active and involved community is crucial to the success of a storm water management program because it allows for:

- Broader public support since citizens who participate in the development and decision making process are partially responsible for the program and, therefore, may be less likely to raise legal challenges to the program and more likely to take an active role in its implementation;
- Shorter implementation schedules due to fewer obstacles in the form of public and legal challenges and increased sources in the form of citizen volunteers;
- A broader base of expertise and economic benefits since the community can be a valuable, and free, intellectual resource; and
- A conduit to other programs as citizens involved in the storm water program
  development process provide important cross-connections and relationships with other
  community and government programs. This benefit is particularly valuable when trying
  to implement a storm water program on a watershed basis, as encouraged by EPA.

#### What Is Required?

To satisfy this minimum control measure, the operator of a regulated small MS4 must:

- Comply with applicable State, Tribal, and local public notice requirements; and
- Determine the appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for this minimum control measure. Possible implementation approaches, BMPs (i.e., the program actions and activities), and measurable goals are described below.

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## What Are Some Guidelines for Developing and Implementing This Measure?

perators of regulated small MS4s should include the public in developing, implementing, and reviewing their storm water management programs. The public participation process should make every effort to reach out and engage all economic and ethnic groups. EPA recognizes that there are challenges associated with public involvement. Nevertheless, EPA strongly believes that these challenges can be addressed through an aggressive and inclusive program. Challenges and example practices that can help ensure successful participation are discussed below.

#### Implementation Challenges

The best way to handle common notification and recruitment challenges is to know the audience and think creatively about how to gain its attention and interest. Traditional methods of soliciting public input are not always successful in generating interest, and subsequent involvement, in all sectors of the community. For example, municipalities often rely solely on advertising in local newspapers to announce public meetings and other opportunities for public involvement. Since there may be large sectors of the population who do not read the local press, the audience reached may be limited. Therefore, alternative advertising methods should be used whenever possible, including radio or television spots, postings at bus or subway stops, announcements in neighborhood newsletters, announcements at civic organization meetings, distribution of flyers, mass mailings, door-to-door visits, telephone notifications, and multilingual announcements. These efforts. of course, are tied closely to the efforts for the public education and outreach minimum control measure (see Fact Sheet 2.3).

In addition, advertising and soliciting for help should be targeted at specific population sectors, including ethnic, minority, and low-income communities; academia and educational institutions; neighborhood and community groups; outdoor recreation groups; and business and industry. The goal is to involve a diverse cross-section of people who can offer a multitude of concerns, ideas, and connections during the program development process.

#### Possible Practices (BMPs)

There are a variety of practices that could be incorporated into a public participation and involvement program, such as:

- Public meetings/citizen panels allow citizens to discuss various viewpoints and provide input concerning appropriate storm water management policies and BMPs;
- Volunteer water quality monitoring gives citizens firsthand knowledge of the quality of local water bodies and provides a cost-effective means of collecting water quality data;
- Volunteer educators/speakers who can conduct workshops, encourage public participation, and staff special events;

- Storm drain stenciling is an important and simple activity that concerned citizens, especially students, can do;
- Community clean-ups along local waterways, beaches, and around storm drains;
- Citizen watch groups can aid local enforcement authorities in the identification of polluters; and
- "Adopt A Storm Drain" programs encourage individuals or groups to keep storm drains free of debris and to monitor what is entering local waterways through storm drains.

#### What Are Appropriate Measurable Goals?

Measurable goals, which are required for each minimum control measure, are intended to gauge permit compliance and program effectiveness. The measurable goals, as well as the BMPs, greatly depend on the needs and characteristics of the operator and the area served by the small MS4. Furthermore, they should be chosen using an integrated approach that fully addresses the requirements and intent of the minimum control measure. An integrated approach for this minimum measure could include the following measurable goals:

Target Date	Activity
1 year	Notice of a public meeting in several different
	print media and bilingual flyers; citizen panel
	established; volunteers organized to locate
	outfalls/illicit discharges and stencil drains.
2 years	Final recommendations of the citizen panel;
	radio spots promoting program and
	participation.
3 years	A certain percentage of the community
	participating in community clean-ups.
4 years	Citizen watch groups established in a certain
	percentage of neighborhoods; outreach to every

#### For Additional Information

different population sector completed.

#### Contact

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## Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Minimum Control Measure

This fact sheet profiles the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination minimum control measure, one of six measures the operator of a Phase II regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is required to include in its storm water management program to meet the conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This fact sheet outlines the Phase II Final Rule requirements and offers some general guidance on how to satisfy them. It is important to keep in mind that the small MS4 operator has a great deal of flexibility in choosing exactly how to satisfy the minimum control measure requirements.

#### What Is An "Illicit Discharge"?

Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as "...any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of storm water..." with some exceptions. These exceptions include discharges from NPDES-permitted industrial sources and discharges from fire-fighting activities. Illicit discharges (see Table 1) are considered "illicit" because MS4s are not designed to accept, process, or discharge such non-storm water wastes.

## Why Are Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Efforts Necessary?

Discharges from MS4s often include wastes and wastewater from non-storm water sources. A study conducted in 1987 in Sacramento, California, found that almost one-half of the water discharged from a local MS4 was not directly attributable to precipitation runoff. A significant portion of these dry weather flows were from illicit and/or inappropriate discharges and connections to the MS4.

Table 1

#### Sources of Illicit Discharges

Sanitary wastewater

Effluent from septic tanks

Car wash wastewaters

Improper oil disposal

Radiator flushing disposal

Laundry wastewaters

Spills from roadway accidents

Improper disposal of auto and household toxics

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Illicit discharges enter the system through either direct connections (e.g., wastewater piping either mistakenly or deliberately connected to the storm drains) or indirect connections (e.g., infiltration into the MS4 from cracked sanitary systems, spills collected by drain outlets, or paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain). The result is untreated discharges that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving waterbodies. Pollutant levels from these illicit discharges have been shown in EPA studies to be high enough to significantly degrade receiving water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

#### What Is Required?

Recognizing the adverse effects illicit discharges can have on receiving waters, the final rule requires an operator of a regulated small MS4 to develop, implement and enforce an illicit discharge detection and elimination program. This program must include the following:

- A storm sewer system map, showing the location of all outfalls and the names and location of all waters of the United States that receive discharges from those outfalls;
- ☐ Through an ordinance, or other regulatory mechanism, a prohibition (to the extent allowable under State, Tribal, or local law) on non-storm water discharges into the MS4, and appropriate enforcement procedures and actions;
- ☐ A plan to detect and address non-storm water discharges, including illegal dumping, into the MS4;
- ☐ The education of public employees, businesses, and the general public about the hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste; and
- ☐ The determination of appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for this minimum control measure. Some program implementation approaches, BMPs (i.e., the program actions/activities), and measurable goals are suggested below.

## Does This Measure Need to Address All Illicit Discharges?

No. The illicit discharge detection and elimination program does not need to address the following categories of non-storm water discharges or flows unless the operator of the regulated small MS4 identifies them as significant contributors of pollutants to its MS4:

- Water line flushing;
- · Landscape irrigation;
- · Diverted stream flows;
- · Rising ground waters;
- · Uncontaminated ground water infiltration;
- Uncontaminated pumped ground water;
- · Discharges from potable water sources;
- · Foundation drains;
- Air conditioning condensation;
- Irrigation water;
- · Springs;
- · Water from crawl space pumps;

- · Footing drains;
- · Lawn watering;
- · Individual residential car washing;
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands;
- · Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges; and
- · Street wash water.

## What Are Some Guidelines for Developing and Implementing This Measure?

The objective of the illicit discharge detection and elimination minimum control measure is to have regulated small MS4 operators gain a thorough awareness of their systems. This awareness allows them to determine the types and sources of illicit discharges entering their system; and establish the legal, technical, and educational means needed to eliminate these discharges. Permittees could meet these objectives in a variety of ways depending on their individual needs and abilities, but some general guidance for each requirement is provided below.

#### The Map

The storm sewer system map is meant to demonstrate a basic awareness of the intake and discharge areas of the system. It is needed to help determine the extent of discharged dry weather flows, the possible sources of the dry weather flows, and the particular waterbodies these flows may be affecting. An existing map, such as a topographical map, on which the location of major pipes and outfalls can be clearly presented demonstrates such awareness.

EPA recommends collecting all existing information on outfall locations (e.g., review city records, drainage maps, storm drain maps), and then conducting field surveys to verify locations. It probably will be necessary to walk (i.e., wade through small receiving waters or use a boat for larger waters) the streambanks and shorelines for visual observation. More than one trip may be needed to locate all outfalls.

#### Legal Prohibition and Enforcement

EPA recognizes that some permittees may have limited authority under State, Tribal or local law to establish and enforce an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism prohibiting illicit discharges. In such a case, the permittee is encouraged to obtain the necessary authority, if possible.

#### The Plan

The plan to detect and address illicit discharges is the central component of this minimum control measure. The plan is dependant upon several factors, including the permittee's available resources, size of staff, and degree and character of its illicit discharges. EPA envisions a plan similar to the one Michigan recommends for use in meeting their NPDES storm

water general permit for small MS4s. As guidance only, the four steps of a recommended plan are outlined below:

#### 1 Locate Problem Areas

EPA recommends that priority areas be identified for detailed screening of the system based on the likelihood of illicit connections (e.g., areas with older sanitary sewer lines). Methods that can locate problem areas include: public complaints; visual screening; water sampling from manholes and outfalls during dry weather; and use of infrared and thermal photography.

#### Pind the Source

Once a problem area or discharge is found, additional efforts usually are necessary to determine the source of the problem. Methods that can find the source of the illicit discharge include: dye-testing buildings in problem areas; dye- or smoke-testing buildings at the time of sale; tracing the discharge upstream in the storm sewer; employing a certification program that shows that buildings have been checked for illicit connections; implementing an inspection program of existing septic systems; and using video to inspect the storm sewers.

#### Remove/Correct Illicit Connections

Once the source is identified, the offending discharger should be notified and directed to correct the problem. Education efforts and working with the discharger can be effective in resolving the problem before taking legal action.

#### **4** Document Actions Taken

As a final step, all actions taken under the plan should be documented. This illustrates that progress is being made to eliminate illicit connections and discharges. Documented actions should be included in annual reports and include information such as: the number of outfalls screened; any complaints received and corrected; the number of discharges and quantities of flow eliminated; and the number of dye or smoke tests conducted.

#### Educational Outreach

Outreach to public employees, businesses, property owners, the general community, and elected officials regarding ways to detect and eliminate illicit discharges is an integral part of this minimum measure that will help gain support for the permittee's storm water program. Suggested educational outreach efforts include:

- Developing informative brochures, and guidances for specific audiences (e.g., carpet cleaning businesses) and school curricula;
- Designing a program to publicize and facilitate public reporting of illicit discharges;
- Coordinating volunteers for locating, and visually inspecting, outfalls or to stencil storm drains; and
- Initiating recycling programs for commonly dumped wastes, such as motor oil, antifreeze, and pesticides.

#### What Are Appropriate Measurable Goals?

Measurable goals, which are required for each minimum control measure, are intended to gauge permit compliance and program effectiveness. The measurable goals, as well as the BMPs, should reflect the needs and characteristics of the operator and the area served by its small MS4. Furthermore, they should be chosen using an integrated approach that fully addresses the requirements and intent of the minimum control measure. An integrated approach for this minimum measure could include the following measurable goals:

Target Date	<u>Activity</u>
1 year	Sewer system map completed; recycling
	program for household hazardous waste in place.
2 years	Ordinance in place; training for public
	employees completed; a certain percentage of sources of illicit discharges determined.
3 years	A certain percentage of illicit discharges
- <b>y caro</b>	detected; illicit discharges eliminated; and
	households participating in quarterly
	household hazardous waste special
	collection days.
4 years	Most illicit discharge sources detected and eliminated.

The educational outreach measurable goals for this minimum control measure could be combined with the measurable goals for the Public Education and Outreach minimum control measure (see Fact Sheet 2.3).

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

us U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

#### Reference Documents

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Storm Water Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722)

Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786

- E-mail: center.water-resource@epa.gov

#### Sources

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Demonstration Project. 1997. Guidance for Preparing
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Wayne County, Michigan.



## Construction Site Runoff Control Minimum Control Measure

This fact sheet profiles the Construction Site Runoff Control minimum control measure, one of six measures that the operator of a Phase II regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is required to include in its storm water management program to meet the conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This fact sheet outlines the Phase II Final Rule requirements and offers some general guidance on how to satisfy them. It is important to keep in mind that the small MS4 operator has a great deal of flexibility in choosing exactly how to satisfy the minimum control measure requirements.

#### Why Is The Control of Construction Site Runoff Necessary?

Polluted storm water runoff from construction sites often flows to MS4s and ultimately is discharged into local rivers and streams. Of the pollutants listed in Table 1, sediment is usually the main pollutant of concern. Sediment runoff rates from construction sites are typically 10 to 20 times greater than those of agricultural lands, and 1,000 to 2,000 times greater than those of forest lands. During a short period of time, construction sites can contribute more sediment to streams than can be deposited naturally during several decades. The resulting siltation, and the contribution of other pollutants from construction sites, can cause physical, chemical, and biological harm to our nation's waters. For example, excess sediment can quickly fill rivers and lakes, requiring dredging and destroying aquatic habitats.

#### Table 1

#### Pollutants Commonly Discharged From Construction Sites

Sediment
Solid and sanitary wastes
Phosphorous (fertilizer)
Nitrogen (fertilizer)
Pesticides
Oil and grease
Concrete truck washout
Construction chemicals
Construction debris

#### What Is Required?

The Phase II Final Rule requires an operator of a regulated small MS4 to develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff to their MS4 from construction activities that result in a land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre. The small MS4 operator is required to:

- Have an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism requiring the implementation of proper crosion and sediment controls, and controls for other wastes, on applicable construction sites;
- Have procedures for site plan review of construction plans that consider potential water quality impacts;
- Have procedures for site inspection and enforcement of control measures;
- Have sanctions to ensure compliance (established in the ordinance or other regulatory mechanism);

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- 2.4 Public Participation/
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- Establish procedures for the receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public; and
- Determine the appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for this minimum control measure. Suggested BMPs (i.e., the program actions/activities) and measurable goals are presented below.

## What Are Some Guidelines for Developing and Implementing This Measure?

 $\Gamma$  urther explanation and guidance for each component of a regulated small MS4's construction program is provided below.

#### Regulatory Mechanism

Through the development of an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism, the small MS4 operator must establish a construction program that controls polluted runoff from construction sites with a land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre. Because there may be limitations on regulatory legal authority, the small MS4 operator is required to satisfy this minimum control measure only to the maximum extent practicable and allowable under State, Tribal, or local law.

#### Site Plan Review

The small MS4 operator must include in its construction program requirements for the implementation of appropriate BMPs on construction sites to control erosion and sediment and other waste at the site. To determine if a construction site is in compliance with such provisions, the small MS4 operator should review the site plans submitted by the construction site operator before ground is broken.

Site plan review aids in compliance and enforcement efforts since it alerts the small MS4 operator early in the process to the planned use or non-use of proper BMPs and provides a way to track new construction activities. The tracking of sites is useful not only for the small MS4 operator's recordkeeping and reporting purposes, which are required under their NPDES storm water permit (see Fact Sheet 2.9), but also for members of the public interested in ensuring that the sites are in compliance.

#### Inspections and Penalties

Once construction commences, BMPs should be in place and the small MS4 operator's enforcement activities should begin. To ensure that the BMPs are properly installed, the small MS4 operator is required to develop procedures for site inspection and enforcement of control measures to deter infractions. Procedures could include steps to identify priority sites for inspection and enforcement based on the nature and extent of

the construction activity, topography, and the characteristics of soils and receiving water quality. Inspections give the MS4 operator an opportunity to provide additional guidance and education, issue warnings, or assess penalties. To conserve staff resources, one possible option for small MS4 operators is to have these inspections performed by the same inspector that visits the sites to check compliance with health and safety building codes.

#### Information Submitted by the Public

A final requirement of the small MS4 program for construction activity is the development of procedures for the receipt and consideration of public inquiries, concerns, and information submitted regarding local construction activities. This provision is intended to further reinforce the public participation component of the regulated small MS4 storm water program (see Fact Sheet 2.4) and to recognize the crucial role that the public can play in identifying instances of noncompliance.

The small MS4 operator is required only to *consider* the information submitted, and may not need to follow-up and respond to every complaint or concern. Although some form of enforcement action or reply is not required, the small MS4 operator is required to demonstrate acknowledgment and consideration of the information submitted. A simple tracking process in which submitted public information, both written and verbal, is recorded and then given to the construction site inspector for possible follow-up will suffice.

#### What Are Appropriate Measurable Goals?

Measurable goals, which are required for each minimum control measure, are intended to gauge permit compliance and program effectiveness. The measurable goals, as well as the BMPs, should reflect the needs and characteristics of the operator and the area served by its small MS4. Furthermore, they should be chosen using an integrated approach that fully addresses the requirements and intent of the minimum control measure. An integrated approach for this minimum measure could include the following measurable goals:

Target Date 1 year	Activity Ordinance or other regulatory mechanism in
. you	place; procedures for information submitted by the public in place.
2 years	Procedures for site inspections implemented; a certain percentage rate of compliance
3 years	achieved by construction operators.  Maximum compliance with ordinance; improved clarity and reduced sedimentation
4 years	of local waterbodies.  Increased numbers of sensitive aquatic organisms in local waterbodies.

## Are Construction Sites Already Covered Under the NPDES Storm Water Program?

Yes. EPA's Phase I NPDES storm water program requires operators of construction activities that disturb five or more acres to obtain a NPDES construction storm water permit. General permit requirements include the submission of a Notice of Intent and the development of a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP must include a site description and measures and controls to prevent or minimize pollutants in storm water discharges. The Phase II Final Rule similarly regulates discharges from smaller construction sites disturbing equal to or greater than one acre and less than five acres (see Fact Sheet 3.0 for information on the Phase II construction program).

Even though all construction sites that disturb more than one acre are covered nationally by an NPDES storm water permit, the construction site runoff control minimum measure for the small MS4 program is needed to induce more localized site regulation and enforcement efforts, and to enable operators of regulated small MS4s to more effectively control construction site discharges into their MS4s.

To aid operators of regulated construction sites in their efforts to comply with both local requirements and their NPDES permit, the Phase II Final Rule includes a provision that allows the NPDES permitting authority to reference a "qualifying State, Tribal or local program" in the NPDES general permit for construction. This means that if a construction site is located in an area covered by a qualifying local program, then the construction site operator's compliance with the local program constitutes compliance with their NPDES permit. A regulated small MS4's storm water program for construction could be a "qualifying program" if the MS4 operator requires a SWPPP, in addition to the requirements summarized in this fact sheet.

The ability to reference other programs in the NPDES permit is intended to reduce confusion between overlapping and similar requirements, while still providing for both local and national regulatory coverage of the construction site. The provision allowing NPDES permitting authorities to reference other programs has no impact on, or direct relation to, the small MS4 operator's responsibilities under the construction site runoff control minimum measure profiled here.

#### Is a Small MS4 Required to Regulate Construction Sites that the Permitting Authority has Waived from the NPDES Construction Program?

No. If the NPDES permitting authority waives requirements for storm water discharges associated with small construction activity (see 122.26(b)(15)(i)), the small MS4 operator is not required to develop, implement, and/or enforce a program to reduce pollutant discharges from such construction sites.

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

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• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786



## Post-Construction Runoff Control Minimum Control Measure

This fact sheet profiles the Post-Construction Runoff Control minimum control measure, one of six measures that the operator of a Phase II regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is required to include in its storm water management program in order to meet the conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This fact sheet outlines the Phase II Final Rule requirements for post-construction runoff control and offers some general guidance on how to satisfy those requirements. It is important to keep in mind that the small MS4 operator has a great deal of flexibility in choosing exactly how to satisfy the minimum control measure requirements.

#### Why Is The Control of Post-Construction Runoff Necessary?

Post-construction storm water management in areas undergoing new development or redevelopment is necessary because runoff from these areas has been shown to significantly effect receiving waterbodies. Many studies indicate that prior planning and design for the minimization of pollutants in post-construction storm water discharges is the most cost-effective approach to storm water quality management.

There are generally two forms of substantial impacts of post-construction runoff. The first is caused by an increase in the type and quantity of pollutants in storm water runoff. As runoff flows over areas altered by development, it picks up harmful sediment and chemicals such as oil and grease, pesticides, heavy metals, and nutrients (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorus). These pollutants often become suspended in runoff and are carried to receiving waters, such as lakes, ponds, and streams. Once deposited, these pollutants can enter the food chain through small aquatic life, eventually entering the tissues of fish and humans. The second kind of post-construction runoff impact occurs by increasing the quantity of water delivered to the waterbody during storms. Increased impervious surfaces interrupt the natural cycle of gradual percolation of water through vegetation and soil. Instead, water is collected from surfaces such as asphalt and concrete and routed to drainage systems where large volumes of runoff quickly flow to the nearest receiving water. The effects of this process include streambank scouring and downstream flooding, which often lead to a loss of aquatic life and damage to property.

#### What Is Required?

The Phase II Final Rule requires an operator of a regulated small MS4 to develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in post-construction runoff to their MS4 from new development and redevelopment projects that result in the land disturbance of greater than or equal to 1 acre. The small MS4 operator is required to:

- Develop and implement strategies which include a combination of structural and/or nonstructural best management practices (BMPs);
- Have an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism requiring the implementation of postconstruction runoff controls to the extent allowable under State, Tribal or local law,

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- Ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of controls;
- Determine the appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for this minimum control measure.

#### What Is Considered a "Redevelopment" Project?

The term "redevelopment" refers to alterations of a property that change the "footprint" of a site or building in such a way that there is a disturbance of equal to or greater than 1 acre of land. The term does not include such activities as exterior remodeling. Because redevelopment projects may have site constraints not found on new development sites, the rule provides flexibility for implementing post-construction controls on redevelopment sites that consider these constraints.

## What Are Some Guidelines for Developing and Implementing This Measure?

This section includes some sample non-structural and structural BMPs that could be used to satisfy the requirements of the post-construction runoff control minimum measure. It is important to recognize that many BMPs are climate-specific, and not all BMPs are appropriate in every geographic area. Because the requirements of this measure are closely tied to the requirements of the construction site runoff control minimum measure (see Fact Sheet 2.6), EPA recommends that small MS4 operators develop and implement these two measures in tandem. Sample BMPs follow.

#### ☐ Non-Structural BMPs

- Planning and Procedures. Runoff problems can be addressed efficiently with sound planning procedures. Master Plans, Comprehensive Plans, and zoning ordinances can promote improved water quality by guiding the growth of a community away from sensitive areas and by restricting certain types of growth (industrial, for example) to areas that can support it without compromising water quality.
- Site-Based Local Controls. These controls can include buffer strip and riparian zone preservation, minimization of disturbance and imperviousness, and maximization of open space.

#### ☐ Structural BMPs

• Storage Practices. Storage or detention BMPs control storm water by gathering runoff in wet ponds, dry basins, or multichamber catch basins and slowly releasing it to receiving waters or drainage systems. These practices both control storm water volume and settle out particulates for pollutant removal.

- Infiltration Practices. Infiltration BMPs are designed to facilitate the percolation of runoff through the soil to ground water, and, thereby, result in reduced storm water quantity and reduced mobilization of pollutants. Examples include infiltration basins/trenches, dry wells, and porous pavement.
- Vegetative Practices. Vegetative BMPs are landscaping features that, with optimal design and good soil conditions, enhance pollutant removal, maintain/improve natural site hydrology, promote healthier habitats, and increase aesthetic appeal. Examples include grassy swales, filter strips, artificial wetlands, and rain gardens.

#### What Are Appropriate Measurable Goals?

Measurable goals, which are required for each minimum control measure, are intended to gauge permit compliance and program effectiveness. The measurable goals, as well as the BMPs, should reflect needs and characteristics of the operator and the area served by its small MS4. Furthermore, the measurable goals should be chosen using an integrated approach that fully addresses the requirements and intent of the minimum control measure. An integrated approach for this minimum measure could include the following goals:

Target Date	Activity
1 year	Strategies developed that include structural
	and/or non-structural BMPs.
2 years	Strategies codified by use of ordinance or
	other regulatory mechanism.
3 years	Reduced percent of new impervious surfaces
	associated with new development projects.
4 years	Improved clarity and reduced sedimentation
	of local waterbodies.

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

#### Reference Documents

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Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

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## Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Minimum Control Measure

This fact sheet profiles the Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations minimum control measure, one of six measures the operator of a Phase II regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is required to include in its storm water management program to meet the conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This fact sheet outlines the Phase II Final Rule requirements and offers some general guidance on how to satisfy them. It is important to keep in mind that the small MS4 operator has a great deal of flexibility in choosing exactly how to satisfy the minimum control measure requirements.

#### Why Is Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Necessary?

The Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for municipal operations minimum control measure is a key element of the small MS4 storm water management program. This measure requires the small MS4 operator to examine and subsequently alter their own actions to help ensure a reduction in the amount and type of pollution that: (1) collects on streets, parking lots, open spaces, and storage and vehicle maintenance areas and is discharged into local waterways; and (2) results from actions such as environmentally damaging land development and flood management practices or poor maintenance of storm sewer systems.

While this measure is meant primarily to improve or protect receiving water quality by altering municipal or facility operations, it also can result in a cost savings for the small MS4 operator, since proper and timely maintenance of storm sewer systems can help avoid repair costs from damage caused by age and neglect.

#### What Is Required?

R ecognizing the benefits of pollution prevention practices, the rule requires an operator of a regulated small MS4 to:

- Develop and implement an operation and maintenance program with the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations into the storm sewer system;
- Include employee training on how to incorporate pollution prevention/good housekeeping techniques into municipal operations such as park and open space maintenance, fleet and building maintenance, new construction and land disturbances, and storm water system maintenance. To minimize duplication of effort and conserve resources, the MS4 operator can use training materials that are available from EPA, their State or Tribe, or relevant organizations;
- Determine the appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals for this minimum control measure. Some program implementation approaches, BMPs (i.e., the program actions/activities), and measurable goals are suggested below.

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## What Are Some Guidelines for Developing and Implementing This Measure?

The intent of this control measure is to ensure that existing municipal, State or Federal operations are performed in ways that will minimize contamination of storm water discharges. EPA encourages the small MS4 operator to consider the following components when developing their program for this measure:

- Maintenance activities, maintenance schedules, and long-term inspection procedures for structural and non-structural controls to reduce floatables and other pollutants discharged from the separate storm sewers;
- Controls for reducing or eliminating the discharge of pollutants from areas such as roads and parking lots, maintenance and storage yards (including salt/sand storage and snow disposal areas), and waste transfer stations. These controls could include programs that promote recycling (to reduce litter), minimize pesticide use, and ensure the proper disposal of animal waste;
- Procedures for the proper disposal of waste removed from separate storm sewer systems and areas listed in the bullet above, including dredge spoil, accumulated sediments, floatables, and other debris; and
- Ways to ensure that new flood management projects assess the impacts on water quality and examine existing projects for incorporation of additional water quality protection devices or practices. EPA encourages coordination with flood control managers for the purpose of identifying and addressing environmental impacts from such projects.

The effective performance of this control measure hinges on the proper maintenance of the BMPs used, particularly for the first two bullets above. For example, structural controls, such as grates on outfalls to capture floatables, typically need regular cleaning, while non-structural controls, such as training materials and recycling programs, need periodic updating.

#### What Are Appropriate Measurable Goals?

Measurable goals, which are required for each minimum control measure, are meant to gauge permit compliance and program effectiveness. The measurable goals, as well as the BMPs, should consider the needs and characteristics of the operator and the area served by its small MS4. The measurable goals should be chosen using an integrated approach that fully addresses the requirements and intent of the minimum control measure. An integrated approach for this minimum measure could include the following measurable goals:

Target Date	<u>Activity</u>
1 year	Pollution prevention plan (the new BMPs and revised procedures) completed;
	employee training materials gathered or
	developed; procedures in place for catch
	basin cleaning after each storm and regular street sweeping.
2 years	Training for appropriate employees
	completed; recycling program fully
	implemented.
3 years	Some pollution prevention BMPs
	incorporated into master plan; a certain
	percentage reduction in pesticide and
	sand/salt use; maintenance schedule for
	BMPs established.
4 years	A certain percentage reduction in floatables
	discharged; a certain compliance rate with
	maintenance schedules for BMPs; controls
	in place for all areas of concern.

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

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Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786



## Permitting and Reporting: The Process and Requirements

The Storm Water Phase II Final Rule requires operators of certain small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage because their storm water discharges are considered "point sources" of pollution. All point source discharges, unlike nonpoint sources such as agricultural runoff, are required under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to be covered by federally enforceable NPDES permits. Those systems already permitted under the NPDES Phase I storm water program, even systems serving less than 100,000 people, are not required to be permitted under the Phase II storm water program.

NPDES storm water permits are issued by an NPDES permitting authority, which may be a NPDES-authorized State or a U.S. EPA Region in non-authorized States (see the *For Additional Information* section for a list of U.S. EPA regional contacts). Once a permit application is submitted by the operator of a regulated small MS4 and a permit is obtained, the conditions of the permit must be satisfied (i.e., development and implementation of a storm water management program) and periodic reports must be submitted on the status and effectiveness of the program.

This fact sheet explains the various permit options that are available for operators of regulated small MS4s and details the permit application and reporting requirements. Important compliance deadlines also are highlighted. Program coverage and requirements for regulated small MS4s are explained in Fact Sheets 2.0 through 2.8.

### What Permitting Options Are Available to Operators of Regulated Small MS4s?

Unlike the Phase I program that primarily utilizes individual permits for medium and large MS4s, the Phase II approach allows operators of regulated small MS4s to choose from as many as three permitting options as listed below. The NPDES permitting authority reserves the authority to determine, however, which options are available to the regulated small MS4s.

#### ☐ General Permits

- General permits are strongly encouraged by EPA. The Phase II program has been designed specifically to accommodate a general permit approach.
- General permits prescribe one set of requirements for all applicable permittees. General permits are drafted by the NPDES permitting authority, then published for public comment before being finalized and issued.
- A Notice of Intent (NOI) serves as the application for the general permit. The permittee
  complies with the permit requirements by submitting an NOI to the NPDES permitting
  authority that describes the storm water management plan, including best management
  practices (BMPs) and measurable goals. A Phase II permittee has the flexibility to develop
  an individualized storm water program that addresses the particular characteristics and
  needs of its system, provided the basic requirements of the general permit are satisfied.

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- Permittees also can choose to share responsibilities for meeting the Phase II program requirements. Those entities choosing to do so may submit jointly with the other municipalities or governmental entities an NOI that identifies who will implement which minimum measures within the area served by the MS4.
- The permittee then follows the Phase II permit application requirements (see discussion in next question below).

#### Minimize Duplication of Effort

Two permitting options tailored to minimize duplication of effort can be incorporated into the general permit by the NPDES permitting authority. First, the permitting authority can recognize in the permit that another governmental entity is responsible under an NPDES permit for implementing any or all minimum measures. Responsibility for implementation of the measure(s) would rest with the other governmental entity, thereby relieving the permittee of its responsibility to implement that particular measure(s). For example, the NPDES permitting authority could recognize a county erosion and sediment control program for construction sites that was developed to comply with a Phase I permit. As long as the Phase II MS4s in the county comply with the county's construction program, they would not need to develop and implement their own construction programs because such activity would already be addressed by the county.

Second, the NPDES permitting authority can include conditions in a general permit that direct a permittee to follow the requirements of an existing qualifying local program rather than the requirements of a minimum measure. A qualifying local program is defined as a local, State or Tribal municipal storm water program that imposes requirements that are equivalent to those of the Phase II MS4 minimum measures. The permittee remains responsible for the implementation of the minimum measure through compliance with the qualifying local program.

#### ☐ Individual Permits

- Individual permits are required for Phase I "medium" and "large" MS4s, but not recommended by EPA for Phase II program implementation.
- The permittee can either submit an individual application for coverage by the Phase II MS4 program (see §122.34) or the Phase I MS4 program (see §122.26(d)).
- For individual coverage under Phase II, the permittee
  must follow Phase II permit application requirements
  and provide an estimate of square mileage served by
  the system and any additional information requested
  by the NPDES permitting authority. A permittee
  electing to apply for coverage under the Phase I

- program must follow the permit application requirements detailed at §122.26(d).
- The NPDES permitting authority may allow more than one regulated entity to jointly apply for an individual permit.
- The NPDES permitting authority could incorporate in the individual permit either of the two permitting options explained above in the Minimize Duplication of Effort section.

## ☐ Modification of a Phase I Individual Permit – A Co-Permittee Option

- The operator of a regulated small MS4 could participate as a limited co-permittee in a neighboring Phase I MS4's storm water management program by seeking a modification of the existing Phase I individual permit. A list of Phase I medium and large MS4s can be obtained from the EPA Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) or downloaded from the OWM web site.
- The permittee must follow Phase I permit application requirements (with some exclusions).
- The permittee must comply with the applicable terms of the Phase I individual permit rather than the minimum control measures in the Phase II Final Rule.

#### What Does the Permit Application Require?

Operators of regulated small MS4s are required to submit in their NOI or individual permit application the following information:

- Best management practices (BMPs) are required for each of the six minimum control measures:
  - Public education and outreach on storm water impacts
  - 2 Public participation/involvement
  - **3** Illicit discharge detection and elimination
  - Construction site storm water runoff control
  - Post-construction storm water management in new development/redevelopment
  - Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations

(See Fact Sheets 2.3 through 2.8 for full descriptions of each measure, including examples of BMPs and measurable goals)

 Measurable goals for each minimum control measure (i.e, narrative or numeric standards used to gauge program effectiveness);

- Estimated months and years in which actions to implement each measure will be undertaken, including interim milestones and frequency; and
- The person or persons responsible for implementing or coordinating the storm water program.

#### Relying on Another Entity

The Phase II permittee has the option of relying on other entities already performing one or more of the minimum control measures, provided that the existing control measure. or component thereof, is at least as stringent as the Phase II rule requirements. For example, a county already may have an illicit discharge detection and elimination program in place and may allow an operator of a regulated small MS4 within the county's jurisdiction to rely on the county program instead of formulating and implementing a new program. In such a case, the permittee would not need to implement the particular measure, but would still be ultimately responsible for its effective implementation. For this reason, EPA recommends that the permittee enter into a legally binding agreement with the other entity. If the permittee chooses to rely on another entity, they must note this in their permit application and subsequent reports. A Phase II permittee may even rely on another governmental entity regulated under the NPDES storm water program to satisfy all of the permittee's permit obligations. Should this option be chosen, the permittee must note this in its NOI, but does not need to file periodic reports.

#### What Does the Permit Require?

The operator of a regulated small MS4 has the flexibility to determine the BMPs and measurable goals, for each minimum control measure, that are most appropriate for the system. The chosen BMPs and measurable goals, submitted in the permit application, become the required storm water management program; however, the NPDES permitting authority can require changes in the mix of chosen BMPs and measurable goals if all or some of them are found to be inconsistent with the provisions of the Phase II Final Rule. Likewise, the permittee can change its mix of BMPs if it determines that the program is not as effective as it could be Fact Sheets 2.3 through 2.8 further describe each of the minimum control measures, while the permit requirements for evaluation/assessment and recordkeeping activities are described in separate sections below.

#### Menu of BMPs

The BMPs for minimum measures 3 through 6 (as listed in the permit application requirements section, above) are not enforceable until the NPDES permitting authority provides a list, or "menu," of BMPs to assist permittees in the design and implementation of their storm water management programs. The NPDES permitting authority is required to provide this menu as an aid for those operators that are unsure of the most appropriate and effective BMPs to use. Since the menu is intended to serve as guidance only, the operators can either select from the menu or identify other BMPs to meet the permit requirements. EPA is scheduled to develop a menu of BMPs by October 27, 2000.

#### What Standards Apply?

A Phase II small MS4 operator is required to design its program so that it:

- Reduces the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable" (MEP);
- Protects water quality; and
- Satisfies the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Compliance with the technical standard of MEP requires the successful implementation of approved BMPs. The Phase II Final Rule considers narrative effluent limitations that require the implementation of BMPs and the achievement of measurable goals as the most appropriate form of effluent limitations to achieve the protection of water quality, rather than requiring that storm water discharges meet numeric effluent limitations.

EPA intends to issue Phase II NPDES permits consistent with its August 1, 1996, Interim Permitting Approach policy, which calls for BMPs in first-round storm water permits and expanded or better tailored BMPs in subsequent permits, where necessary, to provide for the attainment of water quality standards. In cases where information exists to develop more specific conditions or limitations to meet water quality standards, these conditions or limitations should be incorporated into the storm water permit. Monitoring is not required under the Phase II Rule, but the NPDES permitting authority has the discretion to require monitoring if deemed necessary.

### What Evaluation/Reporting Efforts Are Required?

#### Frequency of Reports

Reports must be submitted annually during the first permit term. For subsequent permit terms, reports must be submitted in years 2 and 4 only, unless the NPDES permitting authority requests more frequent reports.

#### Required Report Content

The reports must include the following:

- The status of compliance with permit conditions, including an assessment of the appropriateness of the selected BMPs and progress toward achieving the selected measurable goals for each minimum measure;
- Results of any information collected and analyzed, including monitoring data, if any;
- A summary of the storm water activities planned for the next reporting cycle;
- A change in any identified best management practices or measurable goals for any minimum measure; and
- Notice of relying on another governmental entity to satisfy some of the permit obligations (if applicable).

#### A Change in Selected BMPs

If, upon evaluation of the program, improved controls are identified as necessary, permittees should revise their mix of BMPs to provide for a more effective program. Such a change, and an explanation of the change, must be noted in a report to the NPDES permitting authority.

#### What are the Recordkeeping Requirements?

Records required by the NPDES permitting authority must be kept for at least 3 years and made accessible to the public at reasonable times during regular business hours. Records need not be submitted to the NPDES permitting authority unless the permittee is requested to do so.

#### What Are the Deadlines for Compliance?

- The NPDES permitting authority issues general permits for regulated small MS4s by December 9, 2002.
- Operators of "automatically designated" regulated small MS4s in urbanized areas submit their permit applications within 90 days of permit issuance, no later than March 10, 2003.
- Operators of regulated small MS4s designated by the permitting authority submit their permit applications within 180 days of notice.
- Regulated small MS4 storm water management programs fully developed and implemented by the end of the first permit term, typically a 5-year period

#### What are the Penalties for Noncompliance?

The NPDES permit that the operator of a regulated small MS4 is required to obtain is federally enforceable, thus subjecting the permittee to potential enforcement actions and penalties by the NPDES permitting authority if the permittee does not fully comply with application or permit requirements. This federal enforceability also includes the right for interested parties to sue under the citizen suit provision (section 405) of the CWA.

#### For Additional Information

#### **Contacts**

U.S. EPA Regional Storm Water Coordinators<sup>1</sup>

Region 1 {ME <sup>2</sup> , NH <sup>2</sup> , VT, MA <sup>2</sup> , RI, CT}:	Thelma Murphy	617 918-1615
Region 2 {NY, NJ, PR <sup>2</sup> , VI}:	Karen O'Brien	212 637-3717
Region 3 {PA, DE, DC <sup>2</sup> , MD, VA, WV}:	Mary Letzkus	215 814-2087
Region 4 {KY, TN, NC, SC, MS, AL, GA, FL}:	Michael Mitchell	404 562-9303
Region 5 {MN, WI, IL, MI, IN, OH}:	Peter Swenson	312 886-0236
Region 6 {NM <sup>2</sup> , TX, OK, AR, LA}:	Brent Larsen	214 665-7523
Region 7 {NE, KS, IA, MO}:	Ralph Summers	913 551-7416
Region 8 {MT, ND, WY, SD, UT, CO}:	Vernon Berry	303 312-6234
Region 9 {CA, NV, AZ <sup>2</sup> , HI}:	Eugene Bromley	415 744-1906
Region 10 {WA, OR, $ID^2$ , $AK^2$ }:	Bob Robichaud	206 553-1448

The U.S. EPA is the NPDES permitting authority for all federally recognized Indian Country Lands, and for Federal facilities in AK, American Samoa, AZ, CO, DE, DC, FL, Guam, ID, Johnston Atoll, ME, MA, Midway & Wake Islands, NH, NM, PR, VT, VI, and WA.
 Denotes a non-authorized State for the NPDES storm water program. For these States only, the U.S. EPA Region is the NPDES permitting authority. All other States serve as NPDES permitting authorities for the storm water program.

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

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# Federal and State-Operated MS4s: Program Implementation

The program for small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) under the Storm Water Phase II Final Rule includes, in addition to local government jurisdictions, certain Federal and State-operated small MS4s. Federal facilities were not designated for regulation by the NPDES Phase I storm water program for MS4s. The Phase II Final Rule, however, includes the "United States" in the definition of a small MS4, thereby including Federal MS4 operators in the NPDES Phase II storm water program. Federal and State-operated small MS4s can include universities, prisons, hospitals, roads (i.e., departments of transportation), military bases (e.g., State Army National Guard barracks), parks, and office buildings/complexes.

The small MS4 program, largely designed with municipally-operated small MS4s in mind, raises a number of implementation issues for Federal and State operators of regulated small MS4s who must obtain an NPDES permit that requires the development and implementation of a storm water management program that includes the following six minimum control measures: public education and outreach, public participation/involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post-construction runoff control, and good housekeeping/pollution prevention for municipal operations (for more information on each measure, see Fact Sheets 2.3 through 2.8). This fact sheet highlights potential implementation issues related to the minimum control measures, then discusses the implementation options included in the rule that may resolve these issues.

#### What Are Some Implementation Concerns?

This section profiles the three most common implementation issues raised in the public comments submitted regarding Federal/State implementation of the small MS4 program.

#### How Does the Final Rule Account for Unique Characteristics?

Federal and State small MS4s possess a number of characteristics that set them apart from their municipal counterparts. For example, whereas municipally-operated MS4s largely serve resident populations, many Federal or State-operated MS4s, such as medical clinics and departments of transportation (DOTs), do not. Other types of Federal and State MS4s, such as military bases, prisons, and State universities, serve populations that are different from a typical municipal population. Their unique characteristics might lead Federal or State MS4 operators to question either the need to implement the entire suite of minimum control measures or their ability to comply fully with their Phase II storm water permit. Responsibility for developing a storm water program that comprises the minimum measures lies with the operator of the Federal or State MS4.

#### What If the Operator Lacks Legal Authority?

Three of the minimum control measures (illicit discharge detection and elimination, and the two construction-related measures) require enforceable controls on third party activities to ensure successful implementation of the measure. Some Federal and State operators, however, may not have the necessary legal regulatory authority to adopt these enforceable controls in the same manner as do local governments.

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For example, a State DOT that is responsible for the portions of its roads running through urbanized areas may not have the legal authority to impose restrictions on, and penalties against, illicit (i.e., non-storm water) discharges into its MS4 if the source of the discharge is outside the DOT's right-of-way or jurisdiction. As in the case of local governments that lack such authority, State and Federal MS4s are expected to utilize the authority they do possess and to seek cooperative arrangements.

## How Can the Program Be Implemented in Areas Where There Are Multiple Regulated Entities?

Since the final rule provides automatic coverage of all small MS4s within an urbanized area, regardless of political boundaries, coverage of multiple governments and agencies in a single area is likely. For example, a city government that operates a small MS4 within an urbanized area must obtain permit coverage alongside the county, State, and Federal DOTs if they all operate a portion of the roads (i.e., MS4s) in the city. All four entities are responsible for developing a storm water management program for their MS4s (or portions thereof) within the urbanized area. EPA encourages State and Federal small MS4 operators to establish cooperative agreements with cities and counties in implementing their storm water programs.

## Are There Implementation Strategies that Help Facilitate Program Implementation?

This section offers two hypothetical strategies for resolving the implementation issues raised above. The best solution may include a creative combination of strategies.

## STRATEGY #1 A Focus on Choosing Appropriate BMPs

The final rule requires the permittee to choose appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for each minimum control measure. In other words, EPA expects Phase II permittees to tailor their storm water management plans and their BMPs to fit the particular characteristics and needs of the permittee and the area served by its MS4. Therefore, the Federal or State operator of a regulated storm sewer system can take advantage of the flexibility provided by the rule to utilize the most suitable minimum control measures for its MS4. Below is an example of tailored activities and BMPs that Federal or State operators can implement for each measure:

Public Education and Outreach. Distribute brochures and post fliers to educate employees of a Federal hospital about the problems associated with storm water runoff and the steps they can take to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges. For example, employees could be advised against carelessly discarding trash on the ground or allowing their cars to leak oil/fluids in the parking lot.

- Public Participation/Involvement. Provide notice of storm water management plan development and hold meetings at which employees of a Federal office complex are encouraged to voice their ideas and opinions about the effort. Request volunteers to help develop the plan.
- ☐ Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination.

  Develop a map of the storm sewer system on a military base. Perform visual dry weather monitoring of any outfalls to determine whether the storm sewer system is receiving any non-storm water discharges from the base. If a dry weather flow is found, trace it back to the source and stop the discharge. Should a Federal military base identify an illicit discharge, the source of which is traced to the boundary of its system, the Federal operator should refer the discharge to the adjoining regulated MS4 for further action.
- Construction Site Runoff Control. Require the implementation of erosion and sediment controls, and control of waste, for any Federal or State DOT road construction. The DOT would review site plans for proper controls, perform inspections, and establish penalties in the construction contract if controls are not implemented. If construction is done directly by the regulated DOT instead of a private contractor, the DOT could be penalized by the NPDES permitting authority for non-compliance with its small MS4 permit in the event that controls are not properly implemented.
- Post-Construction Runoff Control. Require the implementation of post-construction storm water controls for any new construction on the grounds of a prison. This can be required as part of a construction contract, instituted as internal policy, and considered during site plan review.
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. Train maintenance staff at a State university to employ pollution prevention techniques whenever possible. For example, routinely pick up trash/litter from the university grounds, use less salt on the parking lots and access roads in the winter, perform any maintenance of university vehicles under shelter only, limit pesticide use to the minimum needed, use vegetative buffer strips in the parking lots to filter runoff, and keep dumpster lids closed.

### STRATEGY #2 Working with Other Entities

There may be instances when the Federal or State permittee has limited capabilities to satisfy one or more of the minimum control measures. As discussed above, the permittee may lack the proper legal authority to enforce controls (although it should try to obtain the necessary legal authority if at all possible).

In the case of limited capabilities, the permittee can work with neighboring operators of regulated small MS4s, preferably on a watershed basis, to form a shared storm water management program in which each permittee is responsible for activities that are within individual legal authorities and abilities. The final rule allows the permittee to rely on other entities, with their permission, to implement those minimum measures that the permittee is otherwise unable to implement. Three examples are:

- A State DOT with limited regulatory legal authority can reference a local sewer district's illicit detection and elimination program in its permit application, provided the program sufficiently addresses illicit discharges into the DOT's storm sewer system.
- The permittee or NPDES permitting authority can reference such programs as coastal nonpoint pollution control programs, State or local watershed programs, State or local construction programs, and environmental education efforts by public or private entities.
- ☐ The permittee can become a co-permittee with a neighboring Phase I MS4 through a modification of the Phase I MS4's individual permit. This may be the most logical and preferable option for those Federal and State entities located in close proximity to Phase I MS4s.

Choosing to work with other governmental entities as a copermittee, or referencing parts of each other's plans, can help resolve issues that may arise where multiple regulated jurisdictions exist in the same area. Permittees can avoid duplicative efforts, as well as territorial or regulatory disputes, by working together to implement the storm water program. See Fact Sheet 2.9 for more information on permitting options for regulated small MS4s.

#### Suggested Steps for Working with Other Entities

- (1) Identify the boundaries of the urbanized area (see Fact Sheet 2.2 for more information on urbanized areas)
- (2) Identify the operators of storm sewer systems or portions of the systems within the urbanized area such as local, State, Tribal or Federal governments or other entities.
- (3) In seeking permit coverage:
  - (A) Identify where another entity's program may satisfy one or more minimum control measure. If a program has requirements that are equivalent to a minimum control measure's required elements, the operator of the regulated small MS4 may reference the program in its permit application, provided the other entity gives it permission to do so. While such an arrangement relieves the operator from performing the minimum measure itself, the operator remains ultimately responsible for the measure's effective implementation (see Fact Sheet 2.9 for more information on this option)

OR

(B) Team with an operator of a Phase I MS4 and become a co-permittee on its existing Phase I individual permit (see Fact Sheet 2.9 for more information on this option)

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

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#### Reference Documents

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series

Internet: www.epa.gov/own/sw/phase2

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722)

• Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786



# Storm Water Phase II Final Rule

# **Small Construction Program Overview**

The 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, later referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA), prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to navigable waters of the United States from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Efforts to improve water quality under the NPDES program traditionally have focused on reducing pollutants in industrial process wastewater and municipal sewage treatment plant discharges. Over time, it has become evident that more diffuse sources of water pollution, such as storm water runoff from construction sites, are also significant contributors to water quality problems.

Sediment runoff rates from construction sites are typically 10 to 20 times greater than those from agricultural lands, and 1,000 to 2,000 times greater than those of forest lands. During a short period of time, construction activity can contribute more sediment to streams than can be deposited over several decades, causing physical and biological harm to our Nation's waters.

In 1990, EPA promulgated rules establishing Phase I of the NPDES storm water program. Phase I addresses, among other discharges, discharges from large construction activities disturbing 5 acres or more of land. Phase II of the NPDES storm water program covers small construction activities disturbing between 1 and 5 acres. Phase II became final on December 8, 1999 with small construction permit applications due by March 10, 2003 (specific compliance dates will be set by the NPDES permitting authority in each State). This fact sheet outlines the construction activities covered by Phase I and Phase II, including possible waiver options from Phase II coverage, and the Phase II construction program requirements.

#### Who Is Covered Under the Phase I Rule?

#### Sites Five Acres and Greater

The Phase I NPDES storm water rule identifies eleven categories of industrial activity in the definition of "storm water discharges associated with industrial activity" that must obtain an NPDES permit. Category (x) of this definition is construction activity, commonly referred to as "large" construction activity. Under category (x), the Phase I rule requires all *operators* of construction activity *disturbing 5 acres or greater of land* to apply for an NPDES storm water permit. Operators of sites disturbing less than 5 acres are also required to obtain a permit if their activity is part of a "larger common plan of development or sale" with a planned disturbance of 5 acres or greater. "Disturbance" refers to exposed soil resulting from activities such as clearing, grading, and excavating. Construction activities can include road building, construction of residential houses, office buildings, industrial sites, or demolition.

#### What Is Meant by a "Larger Common Plan of Development or Sale"?

A s defined in EPA's NPDES storm water general permit for large construction activity, a "larger common plan of development or sale" means a contiguous area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities are occurring under one plan (e.g., the operator is building on three half-acre lots in a 6-acre development). The "plan" in a common plan of development or sale is broadly defined as any announcement or piece of documentation

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(including a sign, public notice or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, drawing, permit application, zoning request, computer design, etc.) or physical demarcation (including boundary signs, lot stakes, surveyor markings, etc.) indicating that construction activities may occur on a specific plot.

## What Is the Definition of an "Operator" of a Construction Site?

As defined in EPA's storm water general permit for large construction activity, an "operator" is the party or parties that has:

- Operational control of construction project plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications; or
- Day-to-day operational control of those activities that are necessary to ensure compliance with a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for the site or other permit conditions (e.g., they are authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the SWPPP or comply with other permit conditions).

There may be more than one party at a site performing the tasks related to "operational control" as defined above. Depending on the site and the relationship between the parties (e.g., owner, developer, contractor), there can either be a single party acting as site operator and consequently be responsible for obtaining permit coverage, or there can be two or more operators, all obligated to seek permit coverage. It is important to note that NPDES-authorized States may use a different definition of "operator" than the one above.

## How Is the Phase II Construction Rule Related to the Phase I Construction Rule?

In 1992, the Ninth Circuit court remanded for further proceedings portions of EPA's existing Phase I storm water regulation related to the category (x) discharges from large construction activity (NRDC v. EPA, 966 F.2d at 1292). EPA responded to the court's decision by designating under Phase II storm water discharges from construction activity disturbing less than 5 acres as sources that should be regulated to protect water quality. The Phase II Rule designates these sources as "storm water discharges associated with *small construction* activity," rather than as another category under "storm water associated with *industrial* activity."

## Who Is Covered Under the Phase II Construction Rule?

#### Sites Between One and Five Acres

The Storm Water Phase II Rule automatically designates, as small construction activity under the NPDES storm water permitting program, all operators of construction site activities that result in a land disturbance of equal to or greater than 1 and less than 5 acres.

#### Sites Less Than One Acre

Site activities disturbing less than 1 acre are also regulated as small construction activity if they are part of a larger common plan of development or sale with a planned disturbance of equal to or greater than 1 acre and less than 5 acres, or if they are designated by the NPDES permitting authority. The NPDES permitting authority or EPA Region may designate construction activities disturbing less than 1 acre based on the potential for contribution to a violation of a water quality standard or for significant contribution of pollutants to waters of the United States.

## Are Waivers Available for Operators of Regulated Construction Activity?

Yes, but only for small, not large, construction activity. Under the Phase II Rule, NPDES permitting authorities have the option of providing a waiver from the requirements to operators of small construction activity who certify to either one of two conditions:

- Low predicted rainfall potential (i.e., activity occurs during a negligible rainfall period), where the rainfall erosivity factor ("R" in the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation [RUSLE]) is less than 5 during the period of construction activity; or
- A determination that storm water controls are not necessary based on either:
  - (A) A "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) that address the pollutant(s) of concern for construction activities; **OR**
  - (B) An equivalent analysis that determines allocations are not needed to protect water 'quality based on consideration of instream concentrations, expected growth in pollutant concentrations from all sources, and a margin of safety.

**Pollutants of concern** include sediment or a parameter that addresses sediment (such as total suspended solids, turbidity, or siltation) and any other pollutant that has been identified as a cause of

The intent of the waiver provision is to waive only those sites that are highly unlikely to have a negative effect on water quality. Therefore, before applying for a waiver, operators of small construction activity are encouraged to consider the potential water quality impacts that may result from their project and to carefully examine such factors as proximity to water resources and sensitivity of receiving waters.

## a. What is the Rainfall Erosivity Factor in Waiver **1**?

whether the material Erosivity Factor to determine whether the potential for polluted discharge is low enough to justify a waiver from the requirements. It is one of six variables used by the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE)—a predictive tool originally used to measure soil loss from agricultural lands at various times of the year on a regional basis—to predict soil loss from construction sites. The Rainfall Erosivity Factor waiver is time-sensitive and is dependent on when during the year a construction activity takes place, how long it lasts, and the expected rainfall and intensity during that time. For information about the rainfall erosivity waiver, see Fact Sheet 3.1. Charts detailing the value of the Rainfall Erosivity Factor by particular regions can be found in Chapter 2 of the RUSLE user's guide, which can be downloaded at: http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2.

#### b. What is a "TMDL" in Waiver **2**?

For impaired waters where technology-based controls required by NPDES permits are not achieving State water quality standards, the CWA requires implementation of the TMDL process. The TMDL process establishes the maximum amount of pollutants a waterbody can assimilate before water quality is impaired, then requires that this maximum level not be exceeded.

A TMDL is done for each pollutant that is found to be contributing to the impairment of a waterbody or a segment of a waterbody. To allow a waiver for construction activities, a TMDL would need to address sediment, or a parameter that addresses sediment such as total suspended solids, turbidity, or siltation. Additional TMDLs addressing common pollutants from construction sites such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and oil and grease also may be necessary to ensure water quality protection and allow a waiver from the NPDES storm water program.

A TMDL assessment determines the source or sources of a pollutant of concern, considers the maximum allowable level of that pollutant for the waterbody, then allocates to each source or category of sources a set level of the pollutant that it is allowed to discharge into the waterbody. Allocations to point sources are called wasteload allocations.

## How Would an Operator Qualify for, and Certify to, Waiver 2?

EPA expects that when TMDLs, or equivalent analyses are completed, there may be a determination that certain classes of sources, such as small construction activity, would not have to control their contribution of pollutants of concern to the waterbody in order for the waterbody to be in attainment with water quality standards (i.e., these sources were not assigned wasteload allocations). In such a case, to qualify for waiver ②, the operator of the construction site would need to certify that its construction activity will take place, and the storm water discharges will occur, within the area covered either by the TMDLs or equivalent analysis. A certification form would likely be provided by the NPDES permitting authority for this purpose.

## What Does the Phase II Construction Program Require?

The Phase II Final Rule requires operators of Phase II small construction sites, nationally, to obtain an NPDES permit and implement practices to minimize pollutant runoff. It is important to note that, locally, these same sites also may be covered by State, Tribal, or local construction runoff control programs (see Fact Sheets 2.6 and 2.7 for information on the Phase II small MS4's construction program). For the Phase II small construction program, EPA has taken an approach similar to Phase I where the program requirements are not fully defined in the rule but rather in the NPDES permit issued by the NPDES permitting authority.

EPA recommends that the NPDES permitting authorities use their existing Phase I large construction general permits as a guide to developing their Phase II small construction permits. In doing so, the Phase II requirements would be similar to the three general Phase I requirements summarized below.

Submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) that
includes general information and a certification
that the activity will not impact endangered or
threatened species. This certification is unique to
EPA's NOI and is not a requirement of most
NPDES-delegated State's NOIs:

Ч	The development and implementation of a Storm
	Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with
	appropriate BMPs to minimize the discharge of
	pollutants from the site; and

Submission of a *Notice of Termination* (NOT) when final stabilization of the site has been achieved as defined in the permit or when another operator has assumed control of the site.

## Can the Permitting Authority Reference a Qualifying Erosion and Sediment Control Program in NPDES Construction Permits?

Yes. The Phase II Rule allows the NPDES permitting authority to include in its NPDES permits for large and for small construction activity conditions that incorporate by reference qualifying State, Tribal, or local erosion and sediment control program requirements. A qualifying program must include the following requirements:

- Requirements for construction site operators to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices;
- Requirements for construction site operators to control waste such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste that may cause adverse impacts to water quality;
- Requirements for construction site operators to develop and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan; and
- Requirements to submit a site plan for review that incorporates consideration of potential water quality impacts.

In addition to the four elements above, a qualifying program for large construction activities must also include any additional requirements necessary to achieve the applicable technology-based standards of "Best Available Technology" (BAT) and "Best Conventional Technology" (BCT) based on the best professional judgment of the permit writer.

Should a State, Tribal, or local program include one or more, but not all, of the elements listed above, the permitting authority can reference the program in the permit, provided it also lists the missing element(s) as a condition in the permit.

## What are Some Recommended BMPs for Small Construction Sites?

The approach and BMPs used for controlling pollutants in storm water discharges from small construction sites may vary from those used for large sites since their characteristics can differ in many ways. For example, operators of small sites may have more limited access to qualified design personnel and technical information. Also, small sites may have less space for installing and maintaining certain BMPs.

As is the case with all construction sites, erosion and sediment control at small construction sites is best accomplished with proper planning, installation, and maintenance of controls. The following practices have shown to be efficient, cost effective, and versatile for small construction site operators to implement. The practices are divided into two categories: non-structural and structural.

#### □ Non-Structural BMPs

- · Minimizing Disturbance
- Preserving Natural Vegetation
- Good Housekeeping

#### ☐ Structural BMPs

#### **Erosion Controls**

- Mulch
- Grass
- Stockpile Covers

#### Sediment Controls

- Silt Fence
- Inlet Protection
- Check Dams
- Stabilized Construction Entrances
- Sediment Traps

Most erosion and sediment controls require regular maintenance to operate correctly. Accumulated sediments should be removed frequently and materials should be checked periodically for wear. Regular inspections by qualified personnel, which can allow problem areas to be addressed, should be performed after major rain events.

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202 260-5816
 E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2

Your local soil conservation district office. They can provide assistance with RUSLE and other conservation related issues.

 A list of conservation district contacts is available at: www.nacdnet.org/resources/cdsonweb.html

#### Reference Documents

- Storm Water Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series
  - Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2
- Storm Water Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722)
  - Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2
  - Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center
    - Phone: 202 260-7786
    - E-mail: center.water-resource@epa.gov
- Agricultural Handbook Number 703, Predicting Soil Erosion by Water: A Guide to Conservation Planning With the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), Chapter 2, pp. 21-64, January 1997.
  - Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2
- Guidance for Water Quality Based Decisions: The TMDL Process. April 1991. U.S. EPA Office of Water. EPA 440/4-91-001.
  - Internet: www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl
- NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities (63 FR 7857).
  - Internet: www.epa.gov/owm/sw
  - Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center
    - Phone: 202 260-7786
    - E-mail: center.water-resource@epa.gov



# Storm Water Phase II Final Rule

## Conditional No Exposure Exclusion for Industrial Activity

## Why Is the Phase I No Exposure Exclusion Addressed in the Phase II Final Rule?

The 1990 storm water regulations for Phase I of the federal storm water program identify eleven categories of industrial activities that must obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Operators of certain facilities within category eleven (xi), commonly referred to as "light industry," were exempted from the definition of "storm water discharge associated with industrial activity," and the subsequent requirement to obtain an NPDES permit, provided their industrial materials or activities were not "exposed" to storm water. This Phase I exemption from permitting was limited to those facilities identified in category (xi), and did not require category (xi) facility operators to submit any information supporting their no exposure claim.

In 1992, the Ninth Circuit court remanded to EPA for further rulemaking the no exposure exemption for light industry after making a determination that the exemption was arbitrary and capricious for two reasons. First, the court found that EPA had not established a record to support its assumption that light industrial activity that is not exposed to storm water (as opposed to all other regulated industrial activity not exposed) is not a "storm water discharge associated with industrial activity." Second, the court concluded that the exemption impermissibly relied on the unsubstantiated judgment of the light industrial facility operator to determine the applicability of the exemption. This fact sheet describes the revised conditional no exposure exclusion as presented in the Phase II Final Rule.

#### Who is Eligible to Claim No Exposure?

As revised in the Phase II Final Rule, the conditional no exposure exclusion applies to ALL industrial categories listed in the 1990 storm water regulations, except for construction activities disturbing 5 or more acres (category (x)).

#### What Is The Regulatory Definition of "No Exposure"?

The intent of the no exposure provision is to provide facilities with industrial materials and activities that are entirely sheltered from storm water a simplified way of complying with the storm water permitting provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This includes facilities that are located within a larger office building, or facilities at which the only items permanently exposed to precipitation are roofs, parking lots, vegetated areas, and other non-industrial areas or activities. The Phase II regulatory definition of "no exposure" follows.

No exposure means all industrial materials and activities are protected by a storm resistant shelter to prevent exposure to rain, snow, snowmelt, and/or runoff. Industrial materials or activities include, but are not limited to, material handling equipment or activities, industrial machinery, raw materials, intermediate products, by-products, final products, or waste products.

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A storm resistant shelter is not required for the following industrial materials and activities:

- Drums, barrels, tanks, and similar containers that are tightly sealed, provided those containers are not deteriorated and do not leak. "Sealed" means banded or otherwise secured and without operational taps or valves;
- Adequately maintained vehicles used in materials handling; and
- ☐ Final products, other than products that would be mobilized in storm water discharges (e.g., rock salt).

The term "storm-resistant shelter," as used in the no exposure definition, includes completely roofed and walled buildings or structures, as well as structures with only a top cover but no side coverings, provided material under the structure is not otherwise subject to any run-on and subsequent runoff of storm water. While the intent of the no exposure provision is to promote a condition of permanent no exposure, EPA understands certain vehicles could become temporarily exposed to rain and snow while passing between buildings. Adequately maintained mobile equipment (e.g., trucks, automobiles, forklifts, trailers, or other such general purpose vehicles found at the industrial site that are not industrial machinery, and that are not leaking contaminants or are not otherwise a source of industrial pollutants) can be exposed to precipitation or runoff. Such activities alone would not prevent a facility from certifying to no exposure. Similarly, trucks or other vehicles awaiting maintenance at vehicle maintenance facilities that are not leaking contaminants or are not otherwise a source of industrial pollutants, are not considered "exposed."

In addition, EPA recognizes that there are circumstances where permanent no exposure of industrial activities or materials is not possible and, therefore, under such conditions, materials and activities can be sheltered with temporary covers (e.g., tarps) between periods of permanent enclosure. The no exposure provision does not specify every such situation, but NPDES permitting authorities can address this issue on a case-by-case basis.

The Phase II Final Rule also addresses particulate matter emissions from roof stacks/vents that are regulated by, and in compliance with, other environmental protection programs (i.e., air quality control programs) and that do not cause storm water contamination are considered not exposed. Particulate matter or visible deposits of residuals from roof stacks and/or vents not otherwise regulated (i.e., under an air quality control program) and evident in storm water outflow are considered exposed. Likewise, visible "track out" (i.e., pollutants carried on the tires of vehicles) or windblown raw materials is considered exposed. Leaking pipes containing contaminants exposed to storm water are deemed exposed, as are past sources of storm water contamination that remain

onsite. General refuse and trash, not of an industrial nature, is not considered exposed as long as the container is completely covered and nothing can drain out holes in the bottom, or is lost in loading onto a garbage truck. Industrial refuse and trash that is left uncovered, however, is considered exposed.

## What is Required Under the No Exposure Provision?

The Phase II Final Rule represents a significant expansion in the scope of the original no exposure provision in terms of eligibility (as noted above) and responsibilities for facilities claiming the exclusion. Under the original no exposure provision, a light industry operator was expected to make an independent determination of whether there was "exposure" of industrial materials and activities to storm water and, if not, simply not submit a permit application. An operator seeking to qualify for the revised conditional no exposure exclusion, including light industry operators (i.e., category (xi) facilities), must:

- ☐ Submit written certification that the facility meets the definition of "no exposure" to the NPDES permitting authority once every 5 years.
  - The Phase II Final Rule includes a four-page No Exposure Certification form that uses a series of yes/no questions to aid facility operators in determining whether they have a condition of no exposure. It also serves as the necessary certification of no exposure provided the operator is able to answer all the questions in the negative. EPA's Certification is for use only by operators of industrial activity located in areas where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority.
  - A copy of the Certification can be obtained from the U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) web site, the Storm Water Phase II Final Rule published in the Federal Register (Appendix 4), or by contacting OWM.
- ☐ Submit a copy, upon request, of the *Certification* to the municipality in which the facility is located.
- ☐ Allow the NPDES permitting authority or, if discharging into a municipal separate storm sewer system, the operator of the system, to: (1) inspect the facility; and (2) make such inspection reports publicly available upon request.

Regulated industrial operators need to either apply for a permit or submit a no exposure certification form in order to be in compliance with the NPDES storm water regulations. Any permit held becomes null and void once a certification form is submitted.

Even when an industrial operator certifies to no exposure, the NPDES permitting authority still retains the authority to require the operator to apply for an individual or general permit if the NPDES permitting authority has determined that the discharge is contributing to the violation of, or interfering with the attainment or maintenance of, water quality standards, including designated uses.

## Are There Any Concerns Related to Water Quality Standards?

Yes. An operator certifying that its facility qualifies for the conditional no exposure exclusion may, nonetheless, be required by the NPDES permitting authority to obtain permit authorization. Such a requirement would follow the permitting authority's determination that the discharge causes, has a reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to a violation of an applicable water quality standard, including designated uses. Designated uses can include use as a drinking water supply or for recreational purposes.

Many efforts to achieve no exposure can employ simple good housekeeping and contaminant cleanup activities such as moving materials and activities indoors into existing buildings or structures. In limited cases, however, industrial operators may make major changes at a site to achieve no exposure. These efforts may include constructing a new building or cover to eliminate exposure or constructing structures to prevent run-on and storm water contact with industrial materials and activities. Major changes undertaken to achieve no exposure, however, can increase the impervious area of the site, such as when a building with a smooth roof is placed in a formerly vegetated area. Increased impervious area can lead to an increase in the volume and velocity of storm water runoff, which, in turn, can result in a higher concentration of pollutants in the discharge, since fewer pollutants are naturally filtered out.

The concern of increased impervious area is addressed in one of the questions on the *Certification* form, which asks, "Have you paved or roofed over a formerly exposed, pervious area in order to qualify for the no exposure exclusion? If yes, please indicate approximately how much area was paved or roofed over." This question has no affect on an operator's eligibility for the exclusion. It is intended only to aid the NPDES permitting authority in assessing the likelihood of such actions interfering with water quality standards. Where this is a concern, the facility operator and its NPDES permitting authority should take appropriate actions to ensure that water quality standards can be achieved.

## What Happens if the Condition of No Exposure Is Not Maintained?

Inder the Phase II Final Rule, the no exposure exclusion is conditional and not an outright exemption. Therefore, if there is a change in circumstances that causes exposure of industrial activities or materials to storm water, the operator is required to comply immediately with all the requirements of the NPDES Storm Water Program, including applying for and obtaining a permit.

Failure to maintain the condition of no exposure or obtain coverage under an NPDES storm water permit can lead to the unauthorized discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, resulting in penalties under the CWA. Where a facility operator determines that exposure is likely to occur in the future due to some anticipated change at the facility, the operator should submit an application and acquire storm water permit coverage prior to the exposed discharge to avoid such penalties.

#### For Additional Information

#### Contact

U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: (202) 564-9537E-mail: SW2@epa.gov

Internet: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

Your NPDES Permitting Authority. (A list of names and phone numbers for each U.S. EPA Region is included in Fact Sheet 2.9. Additional contact names, addresses, and numbers for each State can be obtained from the U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management)

#### Reference Documents

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series

• Internet: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater then click on "Phase II"

Storm Water Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722)

• Internet: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater then click on "Phase II"

• Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center

- Phone: 202 260-7786

- E-mail: center.water-resource@epa.gov



# Storm Water Phase II Final Rule

# Construction Rainfall Erosivity Waiver

The 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, later referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA), prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to navigable waters of the United States unless the discharge is authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Because construction site storm water runoff can contribute significantly to water quality problems, the Phase I Storm Water Rule imposed a requirement that all construction sites with a planned land disturbance of 5 acres or more obtain an NPDES permit and implement storm water runoff control plans. Phase II extends the requirements of the storm water program to sites of between 1 and 5 acres. The Rainfall erosivity waiver, along with the water quality waiver, allows permitting authorities to waive those sites that do not have adverse water quality impacts.

#### What is Erosivity?

Erosivity is the term used to describe the potential for soil to wash off disturbed, devegetated earth into waterways during storms. The potential for erosion is in part determined by the soil type and geology of the site. For instance, dense, clay-like soils on a glacial plain will erode less readily when it rains than will sandy soils on the side of a hill. Another important factor is the amount and force of precipitation expected during the time the earth will be exposed. While it is impossible to predict the weather several months in advance of construction, for many areas of the country, there are definite optimal periods, such as a dry season when rain tends to fall less frequently and with less force. When feasible, this is the time to disturb the earth, so that the site is stabilized by the time the seasonal wet weather returns. There are many other important factors to consider in determining erosivity, such as freeze/thaw cycles and snow pack.

#### **How Is Site Erosivity Determined?**

The method for determining if a site qualifies for the erosivity waiver is based on the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the 1950s to help farmers conserve their valuable topsoil. The USLE has been updated to the Revised USLE (RUSLE). Using a computer model supported by decades worth of soil and rainfall data, USDA established estimates of annual erosivity values (R) for sites throughout the country. These R factors are used as surrogate measures of the impact that rainfall had on erosion from a particular site. They have been mapped using isoerodent contours, as shown in Figures 2 through 5.

USDA developed the Erosivity Index Table (EI Table, provided here in Table 1), to show how the annual erosivity factor is distributed throughout the year in two-week increments. Table 1 is based on 120 rainfall distribution zones for the continental U.S. Detailed instructions for calculating a project R Factor are provided later in this fact sheet.

The Storm Water Phase II rule allows permitting authorities to waive NPDES requirements for small construction sites if the value of the rainfall erosivity factor is less than 5 during the period of construction activity (see § 122.26(b)(15)(i)(A)). Note that the permitting authority has the option to not allow waivers for small construction activity. If the permitting authority in a State chooses to use the rainfall erosivity waiver, it will not become effective until permits are required from small construction activity.

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If the R Factor for the period of construction calculates to 5 or lower, and the permitting authority allows the use of the waiver, the site owner may apply for a waiver under the low rainfall erosivity provision of the applicable NPDES Construction General Permit. When applying, owners are encouraged to consider other site-specific factors, such as proximity to water resources and the sensitivity of receiving waters to sedimentation impacts. The small construction operator must certify to the permitting authority that the construction activity will take place during a period when the rainfall erosivity factor is less than 5.

The start and end dates used for the construction activity will be the initial date of disturbance and the anticipated date when the site will have achieved final stabilization as defined by the permit. If the construction continues beyond this period, the operator will need to recalculate the EI for the site based on this new ending date (but keeping the old start date) and either resubmit the certification form or apply for NPDES permit coverage.

## What Other Factors Can Affect Waiver Availability and Eligibility?

PA has established the R Factor of 5 or lower as the criteria for determining waiver eligibility. However, since the intent is to waive only those construction activities that will not adversely impact water quality, State and Tribal permitting authorities have considerable discretion in determining where, when, and how to offer it. They can establish an R Factor threshold lower than 5, or they can suspend the waiver within an area where watersheds are known to be heavily impacted by, or sensitive to, sedimentation. They can also suspend the waiver during certain periods of the year. They may opt not to offer the waiver at all. NOTE: This waiver is not available to sites that will disturb more than 5 acres of land (large construction).

#### What if My Site Is Not Eligible?

If your site is not eligible for a waiver, you must submit a Notice of Intent under the NPDES General Permit, and comply with its requirements. These requirements are described in more detail in Storm Water Phase II Fact Sheet 3.0.

#### How Do I Compute the R Factor for My Project?

- 1. Estimate the construction start date. This is the day you expect to begin disturbing soils, including grubbing, stockpiling, excavating, and grading activities. Pick the 15-day period for your start date (e.g., June 1-15.)
- Estimate the day you expect to have a permanent vegetative cover of at least 70%, or as defined by your permitting authority, over all previous disturbed areas. Round to the nearest 15-day period.

- 3. Refer to Figure 1 to find your Erosivity Index (EI) Zone based on your geographic location.
- 4. Refer to Table 1, the Erosivity Index (EI) Table. Find the number of your EI Zone in the left column. Locate the EI values for the 15-day periods that correspond to the project start and end periods you identified in Steps 1 and 2. Subtract the start value from the end value to find the % EI for your site. The maximum annual EI value for a project is 100%.
- Refer to the appropriate Isoerodent Map (Figures 2 through
   Interpolate the annual isoerodent value for your area.
   This is the annual R Factor for your site.
- 6. Multiply the percent value obtained in Step 4 by the annual isoerodent value obtained in Step 5. This is the R Factor for your scheduled project.

#### **Examples**

1. Construction started and completed in one calendar year.

Find the R value of a construction site in Denver, Colorado. Assume the site will be disturbed from March 1 to May 15.

The EI distribution zone is 84 (Figure 1). Referring to Table 1, the project period will span from March 1 to May 15. The difference in values between these two periods is 4.7 % (4.9-0.2 =4.7). Since the annual erosion index for this location is about 45 (interpolated from Figure 2), the R Factor for the scheduled construction project is 4.7% of 45, or 2.1.

Because 2.1 is less than 5, the operator of this site would be able to seek a waiver under the low rainfall erosivity provision.

#### 2. Construction spanning two calendar years.

Find the R value for a construction site in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Assume the site will be disturbed from August 1 to April 15.

The EI distribution zone is 111 (Figure 1). Referring to Table 1, the project will span from August 1 to April 15. The difference in values between August 1 and December 30 is 35% (100-65.0 = 35.0). The difference between January 1 and April 15 is 8%. The total percentage EI for this project is 43% (35 + 8). Since the annual erosion index for this location is 112 (interpolated from Figure 2), the R Factor for the scheduled construction is 43% of 112, or 48.

Since 48 is greater than 5, the operator of this site would not be able to seek a waiver under the low rainfall erosivity provision.

## Can I Use A Personal Computer to Calculate the R Factor?

The computer program used by USDA to develop the current R Factor maps and table is called the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation, or RUSLE. The current version of RUSLE (v. 1.60) will calculate the R factor for the entire year for a limited number of cities in the U.S., but does not allow the R factor to be easily adjusted based on a shorter period of construction. If you are interested in using RUSLE; Version 1.06 for Mined Lands, Construction Sites, and Reclaimed Lands, is downloadable free of charge from the Internet at http://www.sedlab.olemiss.edu/rusle.

#### Where Can I Get Help?

- A copy of "Chapter 2, Rainfall-Runoff Erosivity Factor (R)" from the USDA Handbook 703 - Predicting Soil Erosion by Water: A Guide to Conservation Planning With the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), January 1997, is available on EPA's web site at http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater.
- Your local soil conservation district office can provide assistance with R Factors and other conservation-related issues. To find the office nearest you, look in the government section of the phone book under soil conservation district, conservation district, natural resource conservation district, etc.

#### For Additional Information

#### Reference Documents

- Storm Water Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series
  - Internet: cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swfinal.cfm
- Storm Water Phase II Final Rule(64 FR 68722)
  - Internet: www.epa.gov/npdes/regulations/phase2.pdf
  - Contact the U.S. EPA Water Resource Center
     Phone: (202) 564-9545
- Agricultural Handbook Number 703, Predicting Soil Erosion by Water: A Guide to Conservation Planning With the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), Chapter 2, pp. 21-64, January 1997.
  - Internet: www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/ruslech2.pdf

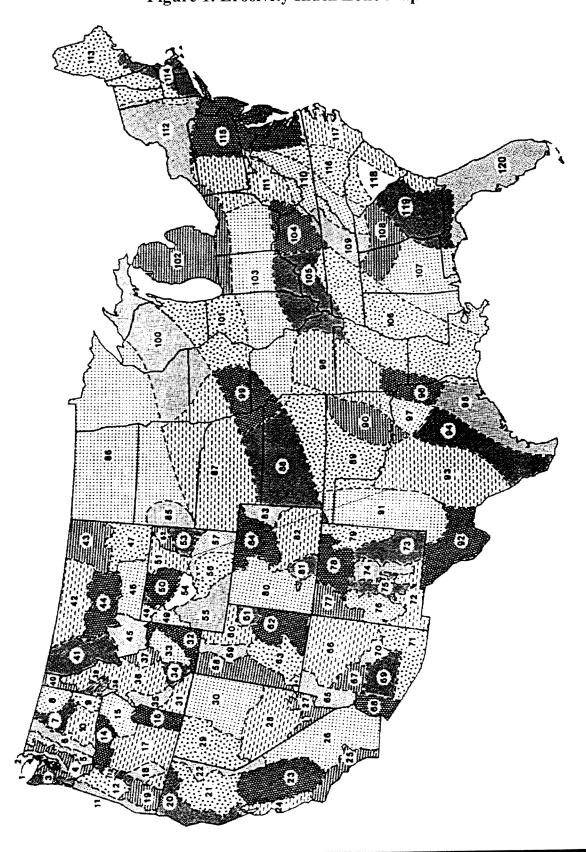


Figure 1. Erosivity Index Zone Map

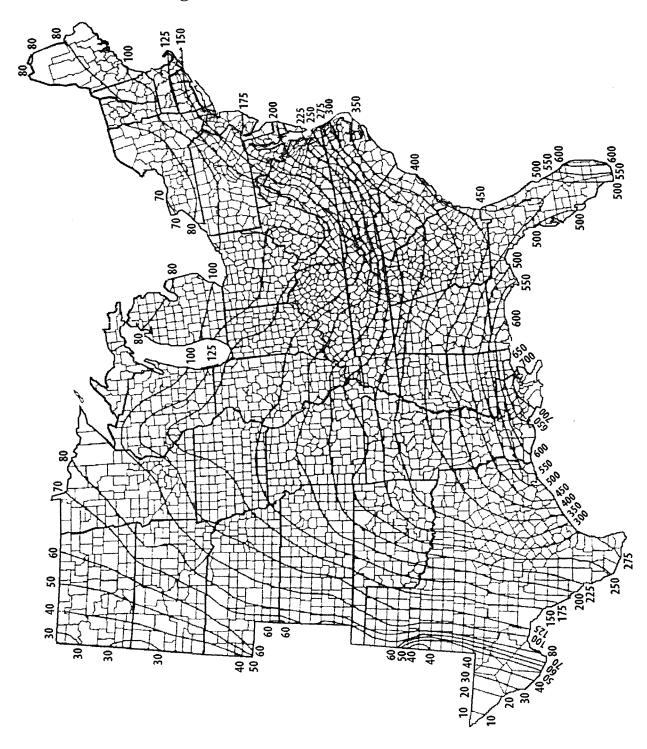


Figure 2. Isoerodent Map of the Eastern U.S.

Note: Units for all maps on this page are are hundreds ft\*tonf\*in(ac\*h\*yr)'1

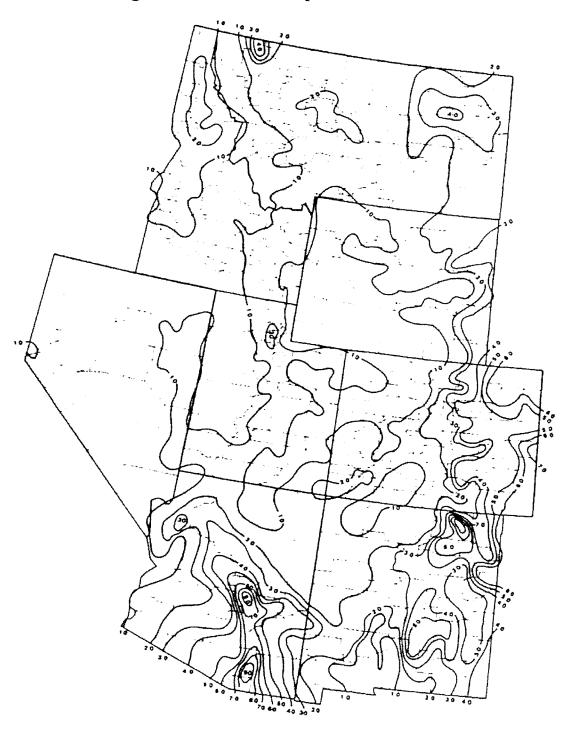


Figure 3. Isoerodent Map of the Western U.S.

Note: Units for all maps on this page are are hundreds ft\*tonf\*in(ac\*h\*yr)'1



Figure 5. Isoerodent Map of Oregon and Washington

Note: Units for all maps on this page are are hundreds ft • ton f • in (ac • h • yr) -1

# Table 1. Erosivity Index Table

EI as a percentage of Average Annual R Value Computed for Geographic Areas Shown in Figure 1

Table 1. Erosivity Index Table (cont.)

Dec	100	99.9	98.9	100	8.66	0	3	100	100	100	5	99.7	100	100	99.2	6.66	8	100	100	100	100	100	9	9	100	9	100	100	100	99.7	100
Dec 1.16		6.66	98.9	100	96.8	ç	3	100	100	100	9	99.4	100	100	98.9	8.66	100	100	100	100	90	9	100	100	90	100	100	100	100	2.66	100
Nov	200	6.66	98.9	9.66	98.2	(	5. 5. 6. 7. 7.	100	98.4	99.2	99.1	99.4	100	100	98.9	2.66	100	100	100	100	100	9	100	6.66	6.66	100	100	6.66	7.66	99.4	100
•	<u></u>			8.76	93.2		99.3	100	93.8	96.5	95.8	99.3	100	100	98.9	2.66	100	100	100	100	100	9	100	8.66	8.66	100	100	6.66	98.8	98.6	100
Oct	10-31	98.2	26	95.7	9.68	;	96.3	99.1	90.3	93	91.1	99.2	2.66	8.66	98.5	99.4	9.66	100	86	98.5	99.4	99.1	2.66	99.5	97.9	98.3	98.7	99.4	95.4	95.7	98.6
Oct	را ا ا	93.7	91.1	91.2	85.1	;	88.3	96	86.3	87.5	84.1	98.7	66	66	97.3	98.7	98.3	98.8	95	93.6	26	9.96	98.4	98.6	92.6	92.8	98	98.1	87.5	88.5	94.2
Sep	16-31	9.68	85.9	85.8	80.1	;	82.6	92.3	82.6	83.6	79.4	96.3	97.5	97.1	95.1	96	92.6	96.5	82.6	89.2	93.8	93.8	96.8	97.2	86.7	87.9	91.7	96.2	82.1	81.9	88.1
Sep	دا-1 8	82.5	79.1	76.9	73.9	;	75.8	84.5	6.77	78.1	74.3	89.8	93.7	91.9	06	88.4	89.5	91.3	69.3	81.3	87.7	88.8	92.8	93.5	79.2	81.2	85.6	91.6	74.8	73.2	76.7
Aug	16-31	72.9	72.1	29	67.3	;	68.3	75.1	72.1	68.9	67.5	81.5	97.8	84.6	83.3	78.7	83.3	85.5	61.1	70.2	81.8	84	86	87.7	74	75.5	77.8	86.1	65.4	64.2	66.5
Aug	1-15 60	61.7	66.2	6.99	61.3	,	60.2	61.4	65.7	2.69	9.09	70.7	75.9	71.1	72.3	64.5	73.5	75.7	52.6	99	73.6	1.1	72.7	76.1	9'.29	8.99	65.2	75.1	54.5	54.9	52.8
lu Ç	16-31	5.42	62.8	48.5	56.9		53.5	47.9	61.3	54.9	55.6	63.8	66.5	58.6	49	54	63	66.4	40.7	44.6	66.1	70.2	60.5	63.1	58.8	52.5	51.1	60.4	45.9	46	33.6
lu ,	1-15	46.3	57.9	42	51.9		46	36.3	55.1	50.3	50.1	54.9	53.2	42.7	52.5	41.8	48.9	52.5	27.8	35.6	55.1	60.4	46.1	48	47.3	38.8	38.5	43.5	38	38.3	20.5
Jun	16-30	34.6	46.9	35.9	43.9		36.3	26.7	43.1	42.8	42.2	40.1	33.8	21.9	34.3	22.6	32.9	33	15.4	27.5	38.8	49.6	29.8	35.3	37.2	31.6	29.5	31	29.1	31.1	13.3
Jun	1-15	23.3	99	29.9	34.7		26.6	19.1	30.3	33.1	32.5	22.9	17.3	9.5	18.5	10.2	19.6	17	8.1	20	23.8	35.8	17.5	24.2	27.2	25.5	22.3	21.5	21	24.2	9.5
May	16-31	1.0.7	16.1	22	27.9		18.5	9.1	22.3	24.7	23.3	6.8	5.2	2.7	7.6	3.7	7.5	5.8	2	8.3	13.7	18.8	6.8	9.5	14.7	13.3	11.4	9.2	13.2	15.6	4
May	1-15	n n	8.8	15.5	22.2		12.7	3.9	17.9	17.8	16.3	<del></del>	6.0	0.4	3.5	1.4	2.6	1.6	0	2.7	8.2	8.7	2.5	က	7.2	5.4	5.1	3.5	80	8.9	1,5
Apr	16-30	ο 4 υ κ	4.2	10.7	15.9		6.7	~	13.9	7	10.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	2.7	0.8	9.0	0.4	0	0.7	2.4	3.1	9.0	0.8	2.4	1.3	5.		2.9	2.2	0.4
Apr	1-15	- 6	2.3	7.3	10.2		3.4	0	+	6.5	6.2	0.2	0	0	2.4	9.0	0	0	0	0	0.4	-	0	0	0.7	0	0	0.1	6.0	0	0
Mar	16-31	7.0	9.0	4.	2.5		6.0	0	7.2	1.6	1,5	0.2	0	0	2.4	0.4	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0.2	0	0
Mar	1-15	> 5	0	0	0		0	0	4.3	0	0	0.2	0	0	2.4	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	16-29	- C	. 0	0	0		0	0	1.	0	0	0.2	0	0	2.4	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	1-15	> 5	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	2.3	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	c	0	0	0
Jan	16-31	- E	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	1.7	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C	0	0	0
Jan	1-15	o c	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C	0	0	0
i	# 7	32	33	8	35		36	37	38	36	40	14	42	43	4	45	46	47	48	49	20	51	52	53	54	55	56	22	28	99	99

Table 1. Erosivity Index Table (cont.)

U	31	_	_	_	_		0	0	_	2	4	æ	0	_	_	<b>о</b>	 _	<b>с</b> о	_	_	<sub>6</sub>		<b>3</b> 0	<b>o</b>	_	<b>o</b>	_		_			_	_
å	16-31	50	8	5	Š	97	100	100	16	97.	99.4	98.8	100	5	5	6.66	5	99.8	100	100	99.3	Š	99.9	6.66	100	6.66	100	001	001	5 3	9	Š	66
Dec	1-15	9	9	9	8	94.8	6	100	93.9	94.9	98.1	97.3	6.66	8.66	9	93.6	9	99.5	100	100	98.7		99.7	99.8	9	8.66	100	100	00	3 9	<u>0</u>	66	98
No.	16-31	99.3	9.66	100	98.1	92.7	99.4	99.5	91.9	93.2	96.4	2.96	99.9	9.66	8.66	98.8	96.6	99.1	8.66	6.66	98.2	;	93.6	8.66	6.66	96.8	100	100	5	3 ;	66	86	26
Nov	1-15	97.3	98.1	9	92.4	91.3	7.76	6.76	89.2	8.06	93.4	96	8.66	99.1	99.2	2.96	98.4	98.2	99.2	99.5	97.3	;	99.3	2.66	8.66	9.66	100	100	g	n :	98	26	92
Oct	16-31	91.1	95.5	98.5	90.1	90.4	94.6	9.96	85.7	87.8	6.06	94.7	99.2	97.5	98.4	94.7	95.8	96	98.2	6'86	96.1		98.7	99.3	99.5	99.2	66	66	g	0	96	94	95
Oct	1-15	78.6	89.4	93.9	87	88.8	88.1	94.3	78.6	81.8	86.4	91.7	7.76	93.3	96.1	90.3	89.5	8.06	95.9	97.3	93.2		97.2	98.1	98.6	98.2	98	86	90	8	94	06	87
Sep	16-31	71.6	83.4	88.8	81.9	85.4	83.2	92	69.4	75	6.08	86.3	93.8	87.7	91.6	83.9	83.7	86.5	92.9	94.2	88.8		94.9	96.4	96.5	96.4	96	95	č		91	83	81
Sep	-	65.1					74.4	36.5	54.4	63.6	20.3	74		77.2	81.2			78.3	86	86.5	79.4						06	06	40	G2	85	9/	74
Aug	_			64.7				73.6		50.4 (	55.8		71.5		88.7		57.5	66.3	75.4	-	67.5					83.9	11	7.7		,	78	69	69
	1-15 16			_	_	9 09	-	,	24.5			-						46.5 6			51.7 6							63		/0		62 (	
		·	•	•							15.7 36																						
- Inc	*		3 27.3		4 32.3			• •		.,	-		24.7			5 28.3		3 21.5	3 35.8	•	36.4										61		
ыç	•		20.8				Ξ		18.4	17	7.4	9.1	9.9	28.3		17.6	8.4	10.3	21.8		26.6			29.8	44	38.3		36		43	51	48	72
Jun	16-3(	29.8	16.5	15.8	21	20.5	7.6	9	18.3	15.7	5.4	6.5	3.5	18.1	10.2	9	4.9	7.2	13.2	18.8	19.7		12.8	20.1	8	27.2	23	23	8	83	37	38	46
Jun	1-15	15.5	13.7	13.3	19.4	19.3	9	2.4	18.2	15.1	4.7	5.6	£.	11.5	6.4	9.9	3.5	5.9	8.9	12.7	15.5		6.6	14.4	19.4	19.5	<del>-</del>	+	: [	1/	23	27	37
May	16-31	8.5	9.7	7.8	17.3	18.4	3.6	1.9	18.1	14.7	3.9	4.5	0.8	4	2.7	4.1	2	3.9	3.8	5.8	10.1		3.9	6.7	8.3	6.6	9	ď	, ;	10	13	18	29
May	1-15	2	6.5	3.7	15.6	17.7	2.2	1.6	17.7	14.3	3.4	4	0.7	1,3	1.2	က	1.3	2.8	1.6	2.7	6.9		5.	3.1	3.5	6,4	က	٣	) (	ω	9	12	21
Apr	16-30	1.3	3.6	6.0	14.4	16.3	<del>1.</del>	6.0	16.3	13.7	2.8	3.6	0.2	9.0	9.0	1.9	9.0	2	0.5	1.3	4.5		6.0	1.2	1.6	1.7	2	¢		m	က	7	13
Apr	1-15	0	2.1	0	12.4	14.4	9.0	4.0	13.3	12.4	2.2	3.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	<del>1</del> .3	0.2	1.5	0.2	1.0	3.3		0.8	9.0	6.0	9.0	-	-	- (	7	2	4	80
Mar	16-31	0	8.0	0	7.4	13	0.1	0.1	12	10.5	1.7	2.8	0	0.2	0.1	9.0	0.1	8.0	0	0.2	2.5		0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	0	c	, ,	<del>-</del>	-	က	9
Mar	1-15	0	0.3	0	2.8	11.4	0	0	10.4	7.8	5.3	2.1	0	0.2	0	0.2	0	0.4	0	0	2.1		0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0	c	, .	<del>-</del>	<del></del>	7	4
Feb	16-29	0	0.1	0	0.7	9.6	0	0	7.8	5.7	<del></del>	1.6	0	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.3	0	0	1.6		0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	c	> (	0	0	-	က
	1-15 1											1.2																					
												0.7																					
	•											0																					
J.	·																																
	ш	61	79	6	ģ	99	ğ	.9	õ	ŏ	7	71	7.	7:	7/	7.	76	7.	78	75	ಹ		ώ	ά	86	ģ	85	ä	5 8	ω	88	ŏ	ത്

Table 1. Erosivity Index Table (cont.)

Dec	16-31	9	8	66	86	86	47	: 8	5	66	9	100	9	100	66	98	26	26	95	98	97	66	66	66	86	26	66	66	66	26	66	06
Dec	1-15	100	100	66	96	96	75	. 8	S	26	100	66	66	66	98	96	96	8	93	96	95	26	86	98	96	93	26	26	86	92	86	80
Nov	16-31	66	66	86	94	93	Ģ	} {	c S	92	66	66	98	98	26	98	93	06	06	94	92	95	26	96	95	89	95	98	26	93	26	72
Nov	1-15	66	66	26	91	68	98	3 8	2.6	93	98	98	26	96	96	93	91	98	88	92	06	93	96	94	89	85	93	93	96	91	96	66.5
Oct	16-31	98	92	91	88	25	83		D D	83	96	26	94	94	95	91	88	84	98	06	88	91	95	92	85	81	06	91	92	89	92	63
Oct	1-15	88	88	85	83	79	78		8	<b>8</b>	93	95	91	91	89	89	85	18	84	87	98	88	95	88	80	11	98	88	83	87	88	19
Sep	16-31	81	81	80	9/	73	7.4		5	79	88	91	87	85	84	85	81	78	80	8	83	83	87	83	22	71	82	83	83	85	78	09
Sep	1-15	74	74	92	70	68	20	: :		74	82	84	80	78	79	80	11	75	74	80	80	11	82	9/	68	25	76	11	74	81	72	58.75
Aug	16-31	29	29	72	65	62	99	, ,	71	99	72	74	72	69	72	72	7.1	71	29	75	75	89	74	29	09	55	99	68	99	75	63	58
Aug	1-15	09	09	29	61	25	62		8	63	99	62	63	69	64	63	99	29	9	69	68	99	65	99	52	46	99	56	54	29	25	57.75
ы	16-31	53	53	62	25	51	58	. 0	\$ ;	28	25	20	52	49	99	5	25	19	53	29	58	45	25	42	42	38	45	45	42	99	48	25
Jul	1-15	46	46	99	53	46	75		ō	20	48	38	39	40	45	4	90	55	45	20	47	36	41	33	31	32	34	36	31	47	40	56.5
Jun	16-30	39	39	49	47	41	64		8 :	45	33	27	28	31	34	8	. 43	49	39	43	39	59	28	24	22	56	56	59	22	41	31	26
Jun	1-15	59	59	40	38	35	43	. 0	6 1	34	19	15	20	22	25	27	37	44	35	38	33	25	70	17	17	21	19	25	17	35	23	22
May	16-31	16	16	25	53	27	37	2.0	6	26	12	6	14	15	18	23	31	38	31	33	29	21	15	12	12	13	4	21	14	30	18	54
May	1-15	9	9	13	21	18	30	ä	9 !	19	7	9	6	#	14	19	56	33	27	28	56	18	=	7	10	Ξ	10	18	11	25	15	53
Apr	16-30	7	2	80	15	4	23	ξ	3 :	13	ည	ო	9	80	10	16	24	27	23	24	23	15	ω	2	ю	13	ω	15	6	20	12	20
Apr	1-15	-	-	9	10	÷	17	*	<u> </u>	10	က	7	4	9	89	13	16	21	18	50	19	12	9	4	9	Ξ	9	12	7	16	6	46
Mar	16-31	-	-	4	ω	თ	12	ç	2 ,	œ	7	<del>-</del>	က	4	9	10	12	17	14	16	16	თ	2	ဗ	2	80	5	6	5	12	7	41
Mar	1-15	<del></del>	<del>-</del>	က	9	7	o	7	- (	œ	-	₩	2	က	4	7	O	13	9	12	13	7	4	2	4	ဖ	4	7	4	80	9	33
Feb	16-29	0	0	2	4	9	9	ď	· •	4	<del>-</del>	0	-	2	က	9	9	б	7	6	10	2	က	-	က	4	က	5	က	9	4	25
Feb	1-15	0	0	-	7	ო	4	cr	, (	7	0	0	0	-	5	ဇ	ო	9	ç	9	9	ო	2	0	2	2	7	က	2	4	5	16
Jan	16-31	0	0	-	-	-	2		- ,	_	0	0	0	0	-	2	<del></del>	က	က	က	က	<del></del>	<del></del>	0	<del></del>	-	<del></del>	<b></b>	-	2	τ-	80
Jan	1-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	c	• (	Э .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	盐	91	95	93	8	98	96	26	5 6	9	<b>6</b> 6	100	101	102	103	404	105	106	107	108	109	110	11	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120

Table 1. Erosivity Index Table (cont.)

Dec	16-31	93	96	98	92	93	8	76	91	89	06	95	06	91	88	92	88	06	88	93	91.2	100	92.1	96.6	92.7	94.6	93.4	94	100	97.6	7.76
Dec	1-15	98	93	88	28	98	ć	ŝ	83	79	81	8	80	83	11	85	78	8	78	85	82.5	100	84.2	93.1	85.5	89.2	86.7	88	100	101	95.3
No.	16-31	62	88	80	11	11	,	c/	9/	73	74	75	70	74	68	79	71	72	71	9/	73.9	95.9	76.1	83.5	78.6	78.2	79.2	6.77	100	90.4	92.3
Nov	1-15	72	83	72	70	7.1	Ç	80	72	68	69	69	64	68	62	74	29	29	99	7.1	65.3	91.7	67.9	73.9	71.7	67.3	71.6	67.9	86	85.7	89.3
Oct	16-31	89	79	29	99	29	8	S	69	64	99	99	59	25	29	20	25	45	49	68	61.6	85.6	4.7	62.3	68.8	60.1	7.07	66.2	96.1	81.2	80.7
Oct	1-15	99	75	22	25	2	S	Ĉ.	29	61	62	63	99	62	28	29	63	63	63	99	56.8	79.4	60.2	20.7	629	52.9	8.69	64.5	95.6	76.7	72
Sep	16-31	63	72	62	63	62	1	2	99	69	61	09	53	61	22	99	62	62	62	25	55.7	75.8	99	46	64.1	44.4	68.6	26	95.1	70.5	29
Sep	1-15	61.5	69	09	62	09	ţ	ç	65	58	09	69	51	09	24	63	19	61	62	63	54.7	72.2	57.8	41.2	62.3	36	67.3	47.5	86.3	64.4	62.1
Aug	16-31	09	65	22	61	59	į	<b>2</b>	64	25	59	58	49	09	27	62	61	09	62	61	54.3	67.5	57.4	36.6	8.09	34	66.1	43	77.6	60.1	46.9
Aug	1-15	69	62	55	59	28	ć	S	63	29	58	56	48	69	25	61	61	09	61	69	54	62.9	25	31.9	59.4	32	64.8	38.6	67.9	6.53	31.7
Juc	16-31	58	69	53	58	25	ć	53	62	99	25	55	47	29	99	9	09	09	61	58	53.9	56.8	6.99	59	58.9	31.3	64.5	36.4	58.2	54.2	24.7
Jul	1-15	26	26	52	29	99	ć	53	29	99	56	53	46	28	99	69	09	69	61	99	53.7	8'09	29.7	26.1	58.4	30.7	64.2	34.2	45.5	52.5	17.7
Jun	16-30	54.5	53	51	99	22	Ç	53	25	53	26	51	45	28	26	58	8	26	61	55	53.5	30.1	56.2	22.6	58	28.7	64.2	34	32.8	52.1	17.2
Jun	1-15	52.5	49	20	55	54	ç	25	54	51	55	49	44	25	99	22	09	58	09	53	53.2	9.3	55.7	19	9.73	26.7	<b>2</b>	33.8	24.2	51.7	16.8
May	16-31	20	4	48	53	52	ć	Ş	51	48	53	47	42	99	55	99	69	25	69	50	52.5	5.3	54.5	15.3	56.2	22.7	63.5	33.3	15.5	50.9	16.2
May	1-15	46	38	4	20	20	9	40	48	45	51	4	4	72	\$	53	25	\$	58	47	51.8	1.3	53.2	11.7	54.8	18.6	63	32.8	14.9	20	15.6
Apr	16-30	43	8	9	45	47	ç	4.7	45	41	49	4	39	51	52	49	55	51	56	42	49.3	0.8	50.3	10	50.8	15.3	60.3	30.8	14.3	47.8	14.6
Apr	1-15	38	59	¥	39	43	ç	ģ	40	37	46	38	36	46	49	43	20	46	25	37	46.8	0.3	47.3	8.4	46.7	12	97.9	28.7	13.2	45.7	13.6
Mar	16-31	33.5	23	58	30	37	ć	33	34	32	41	33	33	40	45	37	44	39	46	32	41.4	0.3	41.7	7.1	39.9	11.1	200.7	22.6	12.2	36.6	11.7
Mar	1-15	25.5	17	23	24	30	ć	87	59	27	35	28	59	32	39	30	37	30	39	25	36	0.3	36	6.6	33	10.1	43.7	16.5	10.8	27.5	9.9
Feb	16-29	20	12	15	17	23	ć	77	22	22	28	22	25	24	34	22	53	25	31	20	28.6	0.3	28.7	2.5	25.2	9.3	33.5	13.1	9.4	19.2	7.4
Feb	1-15	14	æ	6	12	16	,	ဂ	15	16	20	15	9	16	22	15	21	18	22	4	21.2	0.3	21.4	5.5	17.5	8.6	23.3	9.6	4.7	<del>-</del>	4.9
Jan	16-31	7	4	4	7	თ	c	œ	æ	6	10	æ	9	89	12	7	7	10	+	80	10.6	0.2	10.7	2.7	8.7	4.3	11.7	4.8	0	5.5	2.4
Jan	1-15	0	0	0	0	0	c	>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	井山	121	122	123	124	125	9	97	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149